

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 12 February 2015
Report of: Head of Law & Monitoring Officer
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive those petitions presented to the Full Council and referred to the committee for consideration.
- 1.2 To receive any petitions to be presented or which have been submitted via the council's website or for which notice has been given directly to Democratic Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:
- § taking the action requested in the petition
 - § considering the petition at a council meeting
 - § holding an inquiry into the matter
 - § undertaking research into the matter
 - § holding a public meeting
 - § holding a consultation
 - § holding a meeting with petitioners
 - § referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - § calling a referendum

3. PETITIONS

- 3.1 Notified petitions:

(i) Brighton Parents Against Children's Centre & Library Group Closures

To receive the following petition signed by 723 signatures:

“We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council:

There are proposals to stop the universal groups running across the city in Children's Centres and Libraries. These groups are highly valued by parents of the under 5s and vital to child development, providing a safe place for children to play and learn and for parents to share experiences. Some centres will close completely! These centres help the residents of Brighton and Hove through the very challenging early years stage of their child's life and are staffed by highly skilled professionals who are enthusiastic and engaging. These amazing staff are at risk of losing their jobs. We put it to you to stand with us as we stand up to this government and say no cuts to our service. We will not stand idly by and watch the ConDem government target yet another vulnerable group and they should be prepared for a fight!”

Lead petitioner – Brighton Parents Against Children's Centre & Library Group Closures – Ms Leila Erin-Jenkins