

**Subject:** Petitions  
**Date of Meeting:** 21 September 2017  
**Report of:** Executive Lead for Strategy Governance & Law  
**Contact Officer: Name:** Lisa Johnson **Tel:** 01273 291228  
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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
  - calling a referendum

**3. PETITIONS**

- 3.1 Referred petitions:
  - i) **Ban Animal Circuses in Brighton**  
Petition from Ms. S. Baumgardt, referred from the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 (over 1,500 signatures). Extract from the Council proceedings included as appendix 1.

“We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to no longer issue licences to animal circuses performing on Council land.”

Justification:

To date 219 Councils across the country have already said NO to ALL animal circuses. If Brighton & Hove is to maintain its reputation as being a progressive city, we need to refuse animal acts.

On their last visit in September 2016 Zippos Circus used ponies, dogs, budgies and cats. This is in breach of our City’s own Animal Welfare Charter which limits performances using animals to equines only. Since the restrictions of a travelling and performing life are not suited to any animals we ask that Brighton & Hove City Council follow the lead of the majority of councils across the country and only allow circuses with human acts on Council land.

We would like Brighton & Hove City Council to discuss at a full Council meeting, the issue of the exemption in the Animal Welfare Charter being breached.

3.2 To receive the following petition:

ii) **Animal Circuses in Brighton – Lead petitioner Mr. David Hibling**

“We the undersigned petition the council **not** to ban the use of domestic animals including horses, dogs and budgies in circuses and we support their inclusion in circuses on council-owned property.”