

**EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2009****GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****4.00PM 22 SEPTEMBER 2009****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Oxley (Chairman), Simpson (Deputy Chairman), Brown, Elgood, Fallon-Khan, Mears, Mitchell, Randall, Simson and Taylor.

28. E-PETITIONS

28.1 The Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Strategy & Governance which set out proposals for Brighton & Hove City Council to commence an e-petitions facility (for copy see minute book).

28.2 Members welcomed the trial of the e-petitions facility and sought clarity on their role in the process.

28.3 The Head of Law explained that the intention was to carry forward the existing position followed for paper petitions as detailed in the Council's Standing Orders; Members could initiate an e-petition, but could not sign it themselves, and the guidance would be amended to reflect this clearly.

28.4 Councillor Elgood requested that, in addition to the petitioner, the relevant Ward Councillor also be invited to attend the meeting at which the petition is considered.

28.5 RESOLVED -

(1) That the Committee recommends that **Full Council:**

(a) Approves the launch of an e-petitions facility with effect from 21 November 2009 for Brighton & Hove City Council for a trial period and requests a further report on the outcome of the pilot is brought to Governance Committee on 9 March 2010;

(b) Notes that the pilot period will be shorter if the provisions relating to e-petitions in the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Bill come into force prior to the review date;

(c) Agrees the e-petitions guidance attached at Appendix One;

- (d) Authorises the Head of Law to take all steps necessary to implement the e-petitions facility, including making any necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution;
- (2) That the Committee notes the provisions of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Bill in relation to e-petitions and requests officers to bring a further report back to Committee when the commencement date is known.