Council	Agenda Item 58 (b)
17 December 2015	Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	**Syrian Refugees**	
Date of Meeting:	**17 December 2015**	
Report of:	**The Monitoring Officer**	
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Wards Affected:	**All**	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.

1.2 A combined e-petition and paper petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 2,039 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 **The Petition**

"Offer to home 50 refugee families in Brighton."

Lead Petitioner – Eva Mathis

In support of the petition, we submit the following information:

Not 'solving the problem' as our prime minister thinks is no excuse for not helping those in need.

And if he thinks that most of us don't care we have to prove him wrong. We do care. We don't want Britain to be the kind of country that turns its back as people drown in their desperation to flee places like Syria.

So let's stand up for Britain's long tradition of helping refugees fleeing war. Let's show the Prime Minister that we, the people of the UK, are proud to do our part and provide refuge to people in their hour of need.

3.2 The options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate; or

- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee Meeting; or

- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee Meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

(i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;

(ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;

(iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;

(iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;

(v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Committee Chair to reply to the points raised;

(vi) The Mayor will then formally put:

(a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
(b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).