

Subject:	Save Hove Library – Petition for Debate		
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2016		
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 3,923 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration at its special meeting on the 28th April.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

Save Hove Library

"We, the undersigned, are concerned to hear that Hove Library is potentially under threat from the cuts in this year's Council budget.

We urge the City Council to reject the closure of our much-loved Library.

Lead Petitioner –Councillor Mac Cafferty

Supporting information:

Why is this important?

The City Council has announced plans to close Hove Library and re-open a new service in Hove Museum in 2017. We are concerned that the new service will be less central, smaller and won't be able to accommodate the full range and

scope of the existing service. We are concerned that Hove Library as we know and love it is closing, and an iconic piece of local history will be lost forever.

Hove Library is well used and loved by our community. It is a lifeline to many. It is free to use and popular. It provides great value costing the council taxpayer only 32p per week per person. Our library helps our community: 34% of library users have no home internet access and 32% are jobseeking. Over 30,000 children use libraries in Brighton and Hove ranging from homework clubs to baby boogie. Over 600 people attend reading and writing workshops. Hove library is home to special collections, provides a safe space and helps break down barriers.

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).