

Subject:	Brighton Kids Not Commuters – Petition for Debate		
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2016		
Report of:	Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance & Law (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 a petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 An e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1307 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration at its meeting on 3 October 2016.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition****Brighton Kids Not Commuters**

"We believe that every child in Brighton & Hove should have access to quality local education. What we don't believe is that the council's new proposals for secondary school admissions that include wide catchment areas and tiebreaks for popular schools based on a lottery, not distance, will do anything to improve the situation. These changes would split Brighton & Hove children from their friends and the local kids they've grown up with - many would be faced with up to 10-mile return trips to school at peak hours in our already congested city. We are campaigning for Brighton & Hove children to have access to their local community schools - and not be bussed across the city. It will put a huge pressure on our transport infrastructure and add up to £ 1.2 million a year to the council's transport budget, based on the council's own predictions. That money would surely be better used to actually improve our underperforming schools. Please join us in taking action."

Lead Petitioner – Naomi Reilly

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 open the matter up for debate by councillors for period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in the matter, before calling on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the debate;
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, 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).