

Consideration of a petition relating to Teaching Assistants

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The council's Petition Scheme includes a provision for a petition of 4,000 signatures to trigger a Council debate.
- 1.2 A petition has been properly submitted and Democratic Services has validated 5,397 signatures.
- 1.3 The lead petitioner for the online petition, as defined by the scheme, is Ms Karen Askew. However, Ms Askew has advised that she wishes Ms Julia Redfern to be identified as petition organiser for the purpose of its consideration by Council (as detailed in paragraph 1.5).
- 1.4 The course of action called for by the online petition is detailed below, with words added in bold to form a proposed motion for consideration by Council:

"Teaching assistants across Derby have been subject to a pay review. This means that some of our most experienced teaching assistants who keep schools running have had a pay cut of up to 25%. This includes staff at special needs schools who look after our most vulnerable children. Some teaching assistants will have to leave or risk losing their homes as they can not manage on a 25% pay cut. Our children will be the ones who suffer with inexperienced staff. Stop this before it impacts on the most vulnerable.

"Derby City Council needs to pay staff what they deserve.

"Council resolves to pay teaching assistants what they deserve."

- 1.5 The Petition Scheme sets out how the petition will be dealt with as follows:

'The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by councillors for a maximum of 30 minutes, subject to the usual rules of debate within the Council Constitution.'

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council debates the course of action called for in the petition in line with paragraph 1.5 above.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Council approved and adopted a revised Petition Scheme in December 2012. The Scheme makes provision for a Council debate if the trigger of 4000 signatures is reached.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Janie Berry, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer
Financial officer	n/a
Human Resources officer	n/a
Service Director(s)	n/a
Other(s)	n/a

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 None directly arising.

Legal

- 2.1 Council approved a revised Petitions Scheme in December 2012, to amend the scheme introduced as a requirement of The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The requirement was repealed by The Localism Act 2011, but Council retains a scheme, including a duty to respond.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising.

IT

- 4.1 None directly arising

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Petitions are recognised as an effective means of engaging all citizens in the democratic process.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None directly arising.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None directly arising.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None directly arising.

Risk Management

- 9.1 None directly arising

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 Petitions promote wider local representation and involvement in decision-making.