



## **Consideration of Petition calling for all Children's Centres in Derby to remain open**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council's Petition Scheme includes a provision for a petition of 8,500 signatures to trigger a full Council debate.
- 1.2 A petition has been properly submitted and Constitutional Services officers have validated 11022 signatures.
- 1.3 The Lead Petitioner as defined by the scheme is Councillor Ranjit Banwait
- 1.4 The course of action called for by the petition is:  
  
'We the undersigned call on Conservative and Liberal Democrat Councillors who run Derby City Council to THINK AGAIN and keep all Derby's Children's Centres open'
- 1.5 The Petition Scheme sets out how the petition will be dealt with at full Council 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 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.

### **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 Petition Scheme in May 2010. The Scheme makes provision for a full Council debate if the trigger of 8500 signatures is reached.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 An extract from the Petition Scheme is attached as Appendix 2

- 4.2 As this issue is one on which the Council Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Council can only make recommendations to inform their decision.

The Council Cabinet may itself propose a response to the full Council when the petition is considered.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 5.1 None.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b>	Stuart Leslie, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
<b>Financial officer</b>	n/a
<b>Human Resources officer</b>	n/a
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	n/a
<b>Other(s)</b>	None.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Philip O'Brien, tel: 01332 643644 email: phil.o'brien@derby.gov.uk
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Extract of Petition Scheme

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 None directly arising.

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, requires the Council to publish a Petition Scheme, including a duty to respond.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None directly arising.

**Equalities Impact**

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

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None directly arising.

**Carbon commitment**

- 6.1 None directly arising.

**Value for money**

- 7.1 None directly arising.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 8.1 SSC1 – Petitions promote wider local representation and involvement in decision-making.

EXTRACT FORM THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

5. Full Council debates

- 5.1** If a petition contains more than 8500 signatures it will be considered by the full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all councillors can attend. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting.
- 5.2** A Council officer will contact the petition organiser to confirm their attendance, liaise with them about any access/communication needs, the likely number of supporters who will be present and how it can also be watched on the live web cast.
- 5.3** 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 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take or endorse the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant scrutiny commission. Where the issue is one on which the Council Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. The Council Cabinet may itself propose a response to the full Council when the petition is considered. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of the outcome of the Council meeting. This confirmation will also be published on our website.