

	<p>Housing Committee</p> <p>27 June 2016</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Petition for the Committee’s Consideration – Reject Barnet Homes unilateral Decision to remove service tenancies of housing caretakers</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p>Ward</p>	<p>East Finchley</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
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<p>Summary</p>
<p>This item provides Members of the Committee with a petition that was referred up from the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee on 30th March 2016.</p>

<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>That, following discussion of the petition the Committee provides instruction in one of the ways as highlighted at section 5.4.2 of the report.</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At its meeting on 30th March 2016, the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee referred the petition – which concerns Barnet Homes and service tenancies of housing caretakers – to the relevant thematic committee, which in this case was the Housing Committee. The detail of this petition is as follows:

Title of petition	Lead petitioner	Detail/text of petition	No. of signatures
Reject Barnet Homes unilateral decision to remove service tenancies of housing caretakers	Tenants and residents of Elmshurst Crescent Estate	This petition calls on the council to reject Barnet Homes unilateral decision to remove service tenancies of housing caretakers forcing them to accept a flexible tenancy, possible eviction from their homes and a vast increase in rent for their accommodation.	169

- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Public Participation Rules, petitions which receive 25 signatures and over, but less than 2,000 signatures, will be considered by the relevant Area Committee. The Area Committee has the power to refer such petitions to the relevant thematic committee – the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee exercised this power at its meeting on 30th March 2016 and referred the petition to the Housing Committee for consideration.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is a constitutional requirement for relevant thematic committees to consider petitions referred up from area committees.
- 2.2 There are no recommendations contained in this report. The instruction of the Housing Committee is therefore requested.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The committee's decisions will be minuted and any actions arising implemented through the relevant Commissioning Director or the committee, where appropriate, at a future meeting.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

- 5.1 As and when issues raised through petitions are received such relating issues will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Petitions provide an avenue for members of the public to request the council to take an appropriate action in relation to specific issues.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Paragraph 7.6 of the council's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, as outlined in the council's constitution, states that area committees can formally refer a petition to a relevant thematic committee.

- 5.4.2 Paragraph 7.7 of the same section states that a thematic committee, when considering a petition, can take the following actions:

- Take no action
- Note the petition
- Agree a recommended course of action
- Instruct an officer to prepare a report for a future meeting of the Committee on the issue(s) raised

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 Failure to deal with petitions received from members of the public in a timely way and in accordance with the provisions of the council's Constitution carries a reputational risk for the authority.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act"), the council has a legislative duty to have 'due regard' to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of

opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; and promoting good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without. The ‘protected characteristics’ are age, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The ‘protected characteristics’ also include marriage and civil partnership, with regard to eliminating discrimination.

5.7 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 None in the context of this report.

5.8 **Insight**

5.9 The Council Constitution, Public Participation and Engagement provides a function that enables residents to engage with the Council. This process offers the opportunity for residents to bring a matter to the attention of the council and therefore requests that an action be considered and determined as outlined at section 5.4.2 of this report.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 The submitted petition as reported to the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee, 30 March 2016, Agenda Item 10:
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s30844/Petitions.pdf>