

	<p>Council</p> <p>13 December 2016</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Petition – Save Barnet Diving</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p>Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance (Acting), 020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk</p>

<p>Summary</p>
<p>This item provides Members with information relating to an open petition signed by over 9,000 supporters submitted to the Council.</p>

<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>1. That Council note the petition received by the Council in relation to Save Barnet Diving</p>
<p>2. Following debate on the petition, the relevant Committee Chairman responds to the issues raised and outlines the decision route (if any) he/she proposes to take.</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 On the 27 November 2016, the Head of Governance was notified that a petition in relation to Save Barnet Diving had received over 9,000 signatures and the petition was submitted to the Council.

1.2 In accordance with the Public Participation Rules, petitions which receive over 7,000 signatures will be considered at the next available meeting of full Council.

1.3 The text relevant to the petition is below:

“Reverse the decision to remove the diving facility at Barnet Copthall.

With regards to the regeneration of Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre, we write to state out full objection to the removal of the diving pool.

Please do not remove the diving facilities, let's be at the forefront of sporting excellence in the Borough. We believe all sports should be available in Barnet.

Why is this important?

Once this goes, that will be it. This is a service to the children in north London, the nearest one is Olympic park, and the other one is about 15-20 miles away.

If it closes, then taking our children diving three times a week is not going to happen.

My daughter, Hattie, only tried her first diving lesson last week, and she has been waiting to get in the team for so long, and they are all part of a team, a squad, young kids who pull together.

If they were going to tear up a football pitch, people would be up in arms.

Taking this facility away means that the current Tom Daley diving squad will have to travel 15-20 miles for the nearest like for like board heights. These kids train three times a week and take part in National Competitions.”

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is a constitutional requirement for full Council to consider petitions which receive in excess of 7,000 signatures. The relevant Committee Chairman will respond to the issues raised in the petition and outline the decision route (if any) he/she proposes to take.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Council decisions will be minuted and any actions arising implemented through the relevant Commissioning Director or Committee as appropriate.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The Council must ensure its work of is reflective of the Council's priorities.

5.1.2 The three key priorities set out in the 2013-16 Corporate Plan are: –

- Supporting families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and wellbeing,
- Improving the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study,
- Promoting responsible growth, development and success across the borough.

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

5.2.1 None specifically arising from this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Section 1, Functions of Full Council.

5.3.2 Council Constitution, Public Participation and Engagement – paragraph 7.6 provides that;

Petitions will be reported to the following decision making bodies.

25 – 1,999 Signatures The Relevant Area Committee

2,000 – 6,999 Signatures The Relevant Theme Committee

7,000 plus Signatures Full Council

5.3.3 Participation and Engagement, paragraph 7.10 provides:

“Petitions reported at Full Council meetings are required to be received 15days before the Council meeting, and only one petition will be heard per

meeting. Details of the procedure to be followed at the meeting are set below:

- i) Lead Petitioner is given five minutes to present the petition;
- ii) Council Members have an opportunity to ask questions of the Lead Petitioner then debate the item.
- iii) The relevant Committee Chairman will respond to the issues raised in the petition and outline the decision route (if any) he/she proposes to take”

5.4 Risk Management

- 5.4.1 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.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.5.1 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.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.6.1 None specifically arising from this report.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 #Save Barnet Diving Petition, 38 Degrees e-petition website: <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-diving-at-barnet-coptall>
- 6.2 Save Barnet Diving Petition, Barnet e-petition website: <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=30&RPID=558442458&HPID=558442458>