

	<p>COUNCIL</p> <p>3 March 2015</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Petition – No to Closure of Barnet Libraries</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Petition Text</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance (Acting), 020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk</p>

Summary
<p>This item provides Members with information relating to a petition signed by 8,036 residents submitted to the Council.</p>

Recommendations
<p>1. That Council note the petition received by the Council in relation to the Library Services in Barnet.</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 25th January 2015, the Head of Governance was notified that a petition in the name of Mr Alasdair Hill (Lead Petitioner) in relation to the Library Service had received over 7,000 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 submitted with the petition is attached at Appendix 1

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 6.10 provides that;

“Petitions which receive 7,000 signatures or over will be considered at the next available Full Council meeting. Petitions are required to be received 15 days 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 None.