

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 7(c)
17 OCTOBER 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

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PETITION FOR DEBATE 'STOP THE CLOSE OF THE MANOR, RESPITE HOME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES'

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N
FROM : Interim Director of Law and Governance
<p>It is recommended the Council either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note and take no action for the reasons put forward in the debate; 2. take the action, or part of the action, requested by the petition; or 3. refer the petition to either Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, or the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration having regard to the comments made in the course of debate.

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 A petition has been received by the Council with contains more than 500 signatures from people who live, work or study in the city. As such, the right to a debate of the petition by a meeting of the full Council has been triggered, according to the Petitions Scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As set out in the Council's Petitions Scheme, if a petition contains more than 500 signatures from people who live, work or study in the city, it may trigger the right to be debated by a meeting of the full Council.

2.2 On 7 March 2018 a petition was received with the Council from Ms Helen Harbour. Following the undertaking of a verification process, the petition was confirmed to include 930 eligible signatures.

2.3 Ms Harbour requested that the petition was debated by a meeting of the Full Council, as per the Petitions Scheme.

2.4 The petition is titled 'Stop the close of The Manor, Respite home for children and young people with disabilities'. The petitions calls upon the Council to:

- 1) *Let the Manor continue providing a service to families requiring respite provision*
- 2) *Reject any alternatives: Direct Payments or Outreach*

- 2.5 The summary and background to the petition reads:

We the undersigned petition the council to Stop and reconsider the proposed closure of the Manor Children's and young people's home with special needs and disabilities. Parents need the facility, for their child/young person for the continuity, social aspects and the parents needing much needed respite.

The petition is put together by parents and past parents that have used this facility, that know how extremely important it is for our children. We feel many facilities have already closed and parents need this only surviving place of support.

- 2.6 A copy of the petition is available to Members to view upon request.
- 2.7 The petition was referred to the executive director in order that the concerns and questions raised were responded to.
- 2.8 A response was provided to the lead petitioner as attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.9 Although the petition was received in March 2018, the Council meeting on 17 October 2018 is the first meeting where the petition is able to be debated. This is due to there being no substantive items permitted at the Annual Council meeting in May 2018 and the Orton Longueville By-Election at the beginning of August, which meant that the Council meeting on 25 July 2018 fell in the middle of the purdah period.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Finance Implications – There are no financial, legal, or equalities implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 Governance Implications – This report will be debated following the presentation of the petition. The Leader Petitioner has five minutes to present this petition. Members will then be invited to debate the request contained therein. The usual rules of procedure will apply to this debate. Each Member may speak once for no longer than 3 minutes. A Member may not speak again, except on a point of order, by way of a personal explanation, or by way of a statement of accuracy. The Mayor will invite a vote on the recommendations at the close of the debate.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 Peterborough City Council Petitions Scheme.

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 None.