

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Council- 21st September
2016

REPORT OF:

Director of Finance,
Resources & Customer
Services

Agenda – Part: 1	Item: 7
Subject: Petition - Support Your Local Advice Centre	
Wards: Jubilee	
Members consulted: Cllr Doug Taylor	

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report details the petition received on 12 July 2016 containing the following:

“A request for Enfield Council to reconsider its decision not to renew the Lease of the Advice Centre a 11 Mottingham Road, Edmonton”.

- 1.2 Under the Council’s Petition scheme if more than 3,124 valid signatures are received it will be debated at Full Council. This petition has 3,382 verified signatures.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked to receive the petition from the Lead Petitioner, and in accordance with the Councils Petition scheme, allow consideration of the views expressed in the petition.
- 2.2 Council is requested to accept the petition in Part 1 and move to Part 2 for the debate, due to live court proceedings.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council’s Petition Scheme details that compliant petitions submitted to the Council must include:

- A clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition. It should state what action the petitioners wish the Council to take;
 - The name and address and signature of any person supporting the petition;
 - Petitions should identify the petition organiser.
- 3.2 The Council's Petition Scheme enables Petitions with 3,124 signatures (1% of the assessed population from the 2011 census as published by the Office of National Statistics) to be debated at Full Council.

4. PETITION

- 4.1 A petition from the Federation of Enfield Community Associations requesting that the Council reconsider its decision not to renew the Lease of the Advice Centre at 11 Mottingham Road, Edmonton on the 12th July 2016.
- 4.2 Both an E-petition and paper petition have been submitted with 3,719 signatures. These signatures have been checked for duplicates and incomplete information and there are sufficient numbers to trigger a full Council debate. This petition has 3,382 verified signatures.

5. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no obvious financial implications relating to the recommendations in this report.

5.2 Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 The recommendation set out within this report is within the Council's powers and duties.
- 5.2.2 The statutory duty to have a petition scheme was repealed under the Localism Act 2011. Upon abolition of this duty the Council resolved that its existing Petition scheme would remain in force in the interests of promoting democracy.
- 5.2.3 The Council has power under section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do, provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to Public Law principles. There is no express prohibition, restriction or limitation contained in a statute against use of the power in this way. In addition, section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives a local authority power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

5.2.4 The Council's Petitions Scheme provides that a petition can be referred to full Council for debate with 3,124 signatures, being at least 1% of the assessed population figure from the 2011 census as published by the Office of National Statistics. The Council should decide how to respond to the petition by taking the action the petition requests, not taking the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or commissioning further investigation into the matter.

5.2.5 Due to the live court proceedings against the organisation FECA, Council is asked to receive the petition in Part 1 and move to Part 2 for the debate, as a result of sub judice.

5.3 Property Implications

There are no property implications relating to the petition scheme.

6 KEY RISKS

Members of the Council note that the council petition scheme allows a debate at Full Council following the requisite number of signatures.

7. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

7.1 Fairness for All, Growth and Sustainability, Strong Communities

The Council's Petitions Scheme ensures that the public are able to register their opinions on issues of importance to them.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no Performance Management Implications

10. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

There are no Public Health implications related to the petition scheme.

Background Papers: None