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Recipient: Birmingham City Council

Letter: Greetings,

Birmingham City Council to refund residents for missed collections



Briefing: Responding to Petitions

1 The Framework for Dealing with Petitions

- 1.1 A report of the Council Business Management Committee to the City Council on 15 June 2010 sets out the full provisions of the revised Birmingham City Council Petitions Scheme. This revised scheme was developed in response to the Government's statutory guidance on the duty of Councils to respond to Petitions.
- 1.2 The key provisions of the City Council Petitions Scheme are as follows:
- A petition that is submitted which has collected 20,000 signatures (2% of the population) will automatically trigger a debate at City Council;
 - **If the petition has collected 10,000 signatures** (1% of the population of the City) **it will be referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
 - If a petition over 5,000 signatures is submitted it will be considered by the Council Business Management Committee to determine whether the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee should debate it.
- 1.3 The petition for consideration at your meeting today (the front sheet is attached to your agenda papers; the full petition is available for inspection on request) has a total number of 10,269 signatories (excluding those from locations outside Birmingham).
- 1.4 As the petition met the 10,000 signatures trigger, the five O&S Chairs were asked to confirm the relevant Committee to debate the petition. The O&S Chairs agreed that as the petition addressed council funding of services, this would be best heard by the Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee.

2 How should O&S Committees handle Petitions?

- 2.1 The proposed approach for handling the item at Committee which draws from the established approach for Call in meetings:
- The Chair should introduce the item;
 - The Petitioner/Councillor sets out the case and required action;
 - Cabinet Members/Officers should be asked to respond to the petition with reference to their report;
 - Committee members have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the petition and response;



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- It may be appropriate at this point to seek any further comments from the petitioner although this is not a requirement;
 - Once the discussions have reached a close the Chair should formulate a clear formal resolution on the matter for agreement.
- 2.2 After the meeting, the Committee's resolution will be posted on the Council's website (CMIS) as part of the notes of the meeting; and:
- A letter is sent to the lead petitioner / presenting Councillor confirming the resolution;
 - Committee Services are notified so that progress on resolving the petition can be reported to the City Council as part of their regular reports.

3 The Petition

- 3.1 The petition before the committee today is that "Birmingham City Council to refund residents for missed collections".
- 3.2 Cllr Alex Yip is the lead petitioner.
- 3.3 Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of the Council, will attend with officers from finance, revenues and benefits, and waste management. A background report will be provided for information.

Contact Officer: Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services, 0121 464 6870