

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to:	COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report of:	Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2015
Subject:	Petition - Budget Cuts to Supporting People Mental Health and Disabilities Services
Wards affected:	Various

1. Purpose of report:
1.1 To advise the Committee of a Petition relating to Budget Cuts to Supporting People Mental Health and Disabilities Services that has achieved the threshold of 5,000 signatures that allows it to be submitted to this Committee for consideration.
1.2 To seek the view of the Committee as to whether it determines that the City Council or an Overview and Scrutiny Committee should debate the petition if relevant.

2. Decision(s) recommended:
2.1 That the report be noted;
2.2 that, the Committee determine whether the petition should be debated at City Council or an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or not.

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Signature:
Chief Officer:

List of background documents:
Petition presented to City Council on 3 March 2015

Background

At the Meeting of City Council on 3 March Councillor John Cotton submitted a petition relating to Budget Cuts to Supporting People Mental Health and Disabilities Services containing 6,641 signatures.

The wording of the Petition is as follows:

“SERVICE USER & CITIZENS PETITION BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL BUDGET CUTS TO MENTAL HEALTH/DISABILITIES FLOATING SUPPORT SERVICES”

We are petitioning against the proposed budget cuts to the Supporting People Mental Health floating Support Services by Birmingham City Council as stated in the Budget consultation paper 2014, Under the Care Act 2014 the Council is required to “ensure that people receive services that prevent their care needs becoming serious”. By cutting the floating support provision for people with mental health needs we feel that the council are not fulfilling their obligations and are absent in their duty of care.”

Petition Guidance

The relevant sections of the petition Guidance sets out the following

“If your petition achieves the threshold of 20,000 signatures (subject to verification) this will automatically trigger a debate of the petition at City Council. The lead petitioner will be notified of the date of the meeting.

The lead petitioner will also be offered the option of reading their petition at the beginning of the debate or they may choose to request a local Councillor to present it on their behalf.”

“If your petition achieves the threshold of 10,000 signatures (subject to verification) it will be referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a Senior Officer to attend and answer questions about the delivering of public services”.

“In addition, in event that the a petition with the number of signatures over 5,000 but below the above threshold trigger, is submitted, it will be considered by the Council Business Management Committee to determine whether an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or City Council should debate the petition, if relevant”

Matters for Consideration

The petition submitted has 6,641 signatures which is over the threshold for consideration at this Committee to determine whether it should be debated at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or City Council or not.