

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

## PUBLIC REPORT

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| <b>Report to:</b>       | <b>COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>       |
| <b>Report of:</b>       | <b>City Solicitor</b>                              |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b> | <b>27 August 2019</b>                              |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | <b>Petition - Demolition of Perry Barr Flyover</b> |
| <b>Wards affected:</b>  | <b>Perry Barr</b>                                  |

### 1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of a Petition entitled 'Oppose the Flyover Demolition' 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 petition is relevant to either City Council or an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and should be debated

### 2. Decision(s) recommended:

- 2.1 That the report be noted;
- 2.2 That, the Committee determines whether the petition should be debated or not and if so, whether that should be at City Council or by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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### Signature:

**Chief Officer:** .....

### List of background documents:

Petition presented to City Council on 9 July 2019

## **Background**

At the Meeting of City Council on 9 July 2019 Councillor Jon Hunt submitted a petition (both paper and electronic) relating to the Demolition of Perry Barr Flyover. Following verification, the petition was found to contain 6,500 valid signatures from Birmingham residents; as a large number of the signatures on the e-petition part of the petition were from outside Birmingham, these were not valid.

The full wording of the paper petition is as follows:-

“To the The Lord Mayor, Birmingham City Council: We the undersigned object in the Strongest possible terms to the proposal to remove the Perry Barr flyover included in the Perry Barr transport reorganisation. We are deeply alarmed about the prospect of two years of disruption, believe the X51 bus service would cease to be viable and are not satisfied that the proposed replacement traffic lights will be adequate.”

That part of the petition that was an e-petition from the change.org petition website had the wording “We oppose demolition of Perry Barr flyover”

## **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 had a number of signatures from people in other parts of the country and a number from around the world which could not be counted as valid. It is estimated that there were approximately 7,000 signatures on the petition which does not meet the thresholds for consideration at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or City Council. However the petition has 6,500 valid 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.