



## GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

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| <b>Report Title</b> | <b>Petition submitted to Council</b> |
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

|                                    |                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Committee Meeting Date:</b>     | 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2013 |
| <b>Policy Document:</b>            | No                            |
| <b>Directorate:</b>                | Borough Secretary             |
| <b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b> | N/A                           |

### 1. Purpose

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1.1 To consider the petition, submitted to Council, at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

### 2. Recommendations

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2.1 To consider the petition (attached at Appendix 1) and make a decision on the matter referred to in the petition in accordance with one of the options outlined in paragraphs 3.2.1 to 3.2.3.

### 3. Issues and Choices

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#### 3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 A petition was submitted to Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 which petitioned the Council to change the Council policy on accepting petitions to include the submission of petitions in forms such as works of art to convey messages of public discontent. The petition is attached at Appendix 1.

3.1.2 Part 5 of the Council's Constitution includes a Scheme to Respond to Petitions. The Scheme states that, 'we treat as a petition any communication, which is signed by or sent to us on behalf of a number of people. For practical purposes, we normally set a requirement for at least 10 signatories or petitioners before we treat it as a petition'. The Petition Scheme also currently states, a petition should include, 'a clear statement of your concerns and what you want the authority to do'.

3.1.3 In this case, the petition was an 'ordinary petition' having more than 10 but less than 2000 signatories. (The Scheme states that petitions must have more than 2000 signatures if they are to be debated at a meeting of the Council).

3.1.4 The petition is calling for a change to Council policy. If the Council was to change how it treats petitions, it would necessitate making a change to the Council's Constitution, which is a function reserved to the Full Council. This Committee can make recommendation to Full Council to make changes to the Constitution if it considers it necessary following consideration of the petition.

### **3.2 Choices (Options)**

#### **3.2.1 Option 1**

Resolve that the Council should take no further action in respect of the petition.

#### **3.2.2 Option 2**

Make a recommendation to Full Council to make changes to the Petition Scheme included in the Constitution to reflect the proposal in the petition (ie. that petitions that are in forms such as works of art conveying messages of public discontent be accepted as petitions by the Council).

#### **3.2.3 Option 3**

Resolve to take some other action in response to the petition.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

4.1.1 The Council policy on petitions is contained in the Scheme to Respond to Petitions in the Constitution.

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

4.2.1 None

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 As outlined in the body of the Report.

### **4.4 Equality**

4.4.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this Report.

### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 N/A

## **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 None  
**Francis Fernandes**

**Monitoring Officer**  
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