

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 13 November 2017
Report of: Monitoring Officer
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Wards Affected: Various

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.2 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- calling a referendum

3. PETITIONS

3. (i) Benfield Primary School Consultation – Ms J Keilthy

To receive the following petition.

“We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to abandon its proposals to halve the admission numbers for Benfield Primary School.

We would like to take a moment to express the impact the proposed changes would have on our School and the wider community. We have

the best team of teachers who provide an excellent education for all our children.

As a team, the school has turned itself around and what it has achieved in the last few years is nothing short of amazing, we lead with the best. The school keeps within its budget and all the staff and parents are against these proposals and we stand as a community to fight them.

We request that a full equalities impact assessment be carried out before any more time is spent considering a reduction to Benfield School.

We are concerned that other options for reducing PAN have not been considered, for example reducing one of the other local three form entry school's to two forms.

Benfield balances its budget and is not 'in the red', it has forecast itself to remain that way for the next few years. This means its staff can concentrate on providing high quality education.

Benfield is a school in the top 25% of the country for pupils progress, a TRUE measure of a school's success. Reducing the number admitted to Benfield would prevent children from accessing this great education.

It has recently become a national teaching school. The council congratulated the school on this stating "excellent news for the school and recognition of the huge improvements that have taken place at the school in recent years, it is also good news for the city...".

The teaching school status was awarded based on a 2 form entry school, delivering high quality teacher training would be very challenging if not impossible, if it were a one form entry school.

The council should be supporting the school with this prized status NOT MAKING IT HARDER FOR THEM.

Staff jobs would be lost. The whole team at Benfield have worked really hard to turn the school around rapidly and they are incredibly dedicated to the children and the school community. It would have a massive impact on the school if staff were lost, they make the school what it is."

