

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Give Kids the Right to Walk Safely to School in Brighton and Hove - Petition for Debate</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>24 October 2019</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance &amp; Law</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
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<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 The e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,263 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:****3.1 The Petition****Give Kids the Right to Walk Safely to School in Brighton and Hove.**

Lead Petitioner – Councillor Nield

Additional Information:

**Every Pupil deserves the right to walk safely to school.  
We know how many people are desperate for a solution to the nightmare of the school run.**

I'm Sarah Nield. I'm a Councillor and also parent to two children at school in Brighton and Hove. Along with the many other parents who have contacted me -

**I WANT SAFE SCHOOL WALKING ZONES.** Please join my campaign.

We all want more kids to walk to school: it's good for their health, it combats air pollution - so let's make it a genuine option for our young people.

Schools encourage students to walk. 5,10 and 15 minute walking zones are mapped out around them. But families often find that these walking zones are not actually safe to walk in. Walking zones which contain busy, dangerous roads with no crossing points make a mockery of 'Walk to School' initiatives.

Communities who campaign for crossings around their school are often stonewalled with statistics - and told that 'nothing can be done' until an accident happens.

But there is an alternative...

### **We want Safe School Walking Zones.**

We're pushing for practical action that will make a real difference to the school run.

School Walking Zones would mean parents would no longer have to beg for a single crossing at the worst point of their journey. Instead of just encouragement, children should have the right to walk safely to school, with the changes put in place to make it possible, and the support given to schools to deliver.

This campaign is calling for:

1: New council policy which says all schools will be supported to develop Safe School Walking Zones, and that the necessary crossings and road markings will be added within schools' 10 min walking zones to create them.

2: Safe School Walking Zones to be clearly visually marked throughout so drivers cannot miss the fact they are in one.

3: Consultation with schools and their communities, so that people can share their ideas on how to make a Safe School Walking Zone.

**The idea is simple, but the project is big**, and the shift in priorities it represents is huge.

### **In order to happen it needs a massive show of support from parents and school communities.**

We need everyone to sign our petition: whether you're a grandparent, parent, member of the community, teacher, someone who walks to school: the school run is a daily nightmare for so many people: we need you to help us solve it.

We want to show how much support there is for safe walking zones around schools. A big enough petition (we need 1,250 signatures) will lead to a full debate in the Council chamber and allow us to gain this issue the attention it deserves. If voted through we can then start the ball rolling to make Safe School Walking Zones a reality in Brighton and Hove.

## **4. PROCEDURE:**

- 4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors for period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in the matter, before calling on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the debate;
- (iii) An amendment to the recommendation in paragraph 2.1 of the report or to add additional recommendations should be submitted by 10.00am on the day of the meeting; otherwise it will be subject to the Chair's discretion as to being appropriate. Any such amendment will need to be formally moved and seconded at the meeting;
- (iv) After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, the Mayor will then formally put:
- (v) (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and  
(b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

