Subject:		**Connexions Petition**		
Date of Meeting:		**21 October 2010**		
Report of:		**Acting Monitoring Officer**		
Contact Officer:	**Name:**	Mark Wall	Tel:	29-1006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Wards Affected:	**All**			

For general release

Note: The subject matter of the petition is an executive function and therefore not one that Full Council can make a decision on.

PETITION TRIGGERING A FULL COUNCIL DEBATE

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 a petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.

1.2 A combined paper and e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,564 signatures.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the petition is referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 **The Petition**

"Brighton and Hove city council has announced £700,000 of cuts to the Connexions service to be implemented by March 2011.

This will mean a substantial reduction of the frontline connexions service, or even the complete closure of the service. We are deeply concerned about the implications of this decision. Quite apart from the impact on the frontline staff, all of whom are very skilled and qualified in working with young people, we are extremely disturbed about the potentially very damaging impact these cuts will have upon the future and wellbeing of the young people living in Brighton and Hove.

To be substantially reducing the level of support to young people at the very time when more advice and support is needed in these difficult economic times,

we feel is very short-sighted. Young people are the country's future and to reduce the level of support available to them, we feel is a very damaging development.

We call on the council to rescind this decision and explore other means to meet the budget cuts without impacting the frontline services.

Your support would be very much appreciated. Please sign our petition to save the Connexions service in Brighton and Hove."

Lead Petitioner – Alex Knutson

3.2 As the subject matter of the petition relates to an executive function, the options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- To refer the petition to Cabinet; or
- To refer the petition to Cabinet with recommendations.

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 call on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;

(iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s);

(iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;

(v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Cabinet Member to reply to the points raised;

(vi) The Mayor will then formally put:

(a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and then
(b) The substantive motion as amended (if amended).