Subject:		**Bright Start Petition**		
Date of Meeting:		**16 December 2010**		
Report of:		**Monitoring Officer**		
Contact Officer:	**Name:**	Mark Wall	Tel:	29-1006
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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 4,621 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**

"We the undersigned, petition Brighton & Hove City Council that Bright Start Nursery is both viable and sustainable. Agenda Item 34 of the Children & Young People Cabinet Member Meeting (11 October 2010) does not adequately evaluate the alternatives to closure and the impact to the wider community.

Bright Start Nursery is one of the few city-centre nurseries and an essential resource to the community and should NOT be considered for closure."

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 the Cabinet; or

- To refer the petition to the 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) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;

(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).