

Council	Agenda Item 84(b)
24 March 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Keep Brighton Unique		
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2011		
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 An e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,421 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 the council to lobby the government to introduce planning powers to enable local authorities to restrict the number of large supermarkets in any one area. We are concerned about Brighton becoming another 'clone town' city, swamped by large chain stores that pose a threat to the unique character of our city and the success of local, small independent businesses. In particular we are concerned about plans to open a fourth large supermarket on St. James's Street which we believe will damage the quirky and diverse character of the area, threaten small businesses, and limit the council's ability to control the sale of alcohol in the local community despite it being within a Cumulative Impact Area.

In recent years we have seen an explosion of large chain stores dominating our local high streets. This petition is about getting the balance right between ensuring residents have access to a nearby supermarket, whilst also ensuring against an excess of chain stores that would threaten valued small independent

businesses and the unique and attractive character of our city. This petition was launched in response to the news that a fourth supermarket could soon open on St. James's Street.”

Lead Petitioner – Mr Tom French

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 recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).