

Subject:	Music & Arts Services Cuts – Petition triggering a full council debate		
Date of Meeting:	26 January 2012		
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 4,234 signatures.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Budget Cabinet Meeting on the 9th February for consideration.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

"We the undersigned petition the council to not cut funding to the Brighton and Hove Music & Arts Service by 50% in 2012 and by 100% by 2013."

"Currently 2500 children each week are engaged in Music and Arts Service activities across the city including 500 families from low income backgrounds who access subsidies provided through the service. We believe that an "outstanding" Music and Arts Service, such as we have in Brighton and Hove, is an integral part of a comprehensive education for all children in our City. We urge the Council to reverse this proposed cut that will directly impact on children and young people across the city from all schools."

Lead Petitioner – Keith Turvey

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 relevant Cabinet Meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Cabinet Meeting 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; (the Cabinet Member will have up to 5 minutes in which to respond);
- (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; (Any Member speaking will have up to 3 minutes);
- (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; (the Cabinet Member will have up to 3 minutes);
- (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).