

Subject: Subsidised Bus Services**Date of Meeting: 19 July 2012****Report of: Monitoring Officer****Contact Officer: Name:** Mark Wall **Tel:** 29-1006**E-mail:** mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk**Wards Affected: All****For General Release****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 1,471 signatures.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That in view of the decision taken at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on the 14th June, 2012 the petition be noted.

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

"We the undersigned petition the council to continue the current funding of subsidised bus services in Brighton and Hove.

Bus services exist so that people can get around without the need for a car, and reducing subsidies will make it more difficult to reduce car ownership and usage. The proposed cuts will mostly affect those who cannot afford a car, cannot walk far, or cannot pay for a taxi. We urge the council to find the modest sums required to continue bus subsidies from other projects and avoid this backwards step."

Lead Petitioner Tracey Hill

3.2 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 Committee Meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee Meeting with further 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 Committee Chair 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 Committee Chair 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).