

Report To:	PRINCIPAL SELECT COMMITTEE
Date:	25 JANUARY 2024
Heading:	PETITION RECEIVED – COMMUNITY SITES
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	NOT APPLICABLE
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the Principal Select Committee with details of a petition received by the Council. This report details the received petition and the process that must be followed in accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme and Constitution.

Recommendation(s)

The Principal Select Committee is recommended to:

- a) Receive and note the petition submitted.
- b) Consider any recommendations to be made to Cabinet if required.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The Council has received a petition submitted with 866 signatures. In accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme, the submitted petition has met the threshold for consideration at a meeting of the Principal Select Committee.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered. The Council has an agreed Petition Scheme, further detailed in the Constitution, setting out how petitions received by the Council will be responded to.

Detailed Information

PETITION RECEIVED

The Council recently received a petition with 866 signatures.

The submitted petition reads as follows:

We the undersigned petition the council to We the undersigned object to the bulldozing of our community centres based on one years figures post covid, when there has been no actual Tenant engagement officer to Facilitate joint working between tenants, staff, Elected Members and communities in order to achieve effective community involvement and actions as stated by the tenants charter

The ability to engage with the most vulnerable people face to face at a local level is an integral part of reducing social isolation, helping both mental and physical health. Many people still do not have access to the internet and cannot access any online resources and are overlooked. The social cohesion brought about by the meeting rooms locality and availability is a vital part of building good community relations

END.

PETITION SCHEME

Ashfield District Council has an established Petition Scheme approved by Council. As part of the scheme, the response to a petition is decided by the number of signatures the submitted petition has received.

As per the Petition Scheme:

- If a petition submitted to the Council contains **between 750 and 1499 signatures**, it will be referred to the Principal Select Committee for consideration. Further information on this can be found at section 8 below.

The Petition Scheme continues:

- A petition containing **between 750 and 1,499 signatures** will be considered by the Council's Principal Select Committee.
- The most appropriate Senior Council Officer will be invited to give evidence at a public meeting of the Principal Select Committee relating to the issues set out in a petition.
- The petition organiser will be permitted a total of **15 minutes** to ask up to a maximum of three questions to the Officer(s) in attendance regarding the petition.
- The petition organiser must provide the Service Manager – Scrutiny and Democratic Services with written notice of these questions at least **10 clear working days** before the Principal Select Committee meeting.

- Questions submitted as part of this process considered by the Chief Executive to be vexatious, discriminatory, abusive, unreasonable, or otherwise inappropriate will not be considered.
- Following the questions asked by the petition organiser, a further **15 minutes** will be allocated to allow discussion between Principal Select Committee Members and the invited Officer. During this allocated time, Committee Members may seek further clarification from the petition organiser.
- Following discussion, Members of the Principal Select Committee may decide to approve recommendations to be submitted to a future meeting of the Council’s Cabinet.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Council, as established within the Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027, sets out core values of:

- People focussed
- Honest
- Proud
- Ambitious

Legal:

There are no direct legal implications as a result of the recommendations within this report. If, as a result of the petition, the Principal Select Committee make recommendations to Cabinet, any legal implications will be detailed in a further report.

Finance:

There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations within this report. If, as a result of the petition, the Principal Select Committee make recommendations to Cabinet, any financial implications will be detailed in a further report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Not applicable.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

There are no direct risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Human Resources:

There are no direct HR implications as a result of the recommendations within this report. If, as a result of the petition, the Principal Select Committee make recommendations to Cabinet, any HR implications will be detailed in a further report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no direct environmental/sustainability implications as a result of the recommendations within this report. If, as a result of the petition, the Principal Select Committee make recommendations to Cabinet, any environmental/sustainability implications will be detailed in a further report.

Equalities:

There are no direct equalities implications as a result of the recommendations within this report. If, as a result of the petition, the Principal Select Committee make recommendations to Cabinet, any equalities implications will be detailed in a further report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications as a result of the recommendations within this report. If, as a result of the petition, the Principal Select Committee make recommendations to Cabinet, any legal implications will be detailed in a further report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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