

Subject: Petitions

Report to: London Assembly (Plenary)

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 5 November 2014

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out details of one petition to be presented at this meeting by an Assembly Member.

2. Recommendation

2.1 **That the Assembly receives and notes the petitions listed at paragraph 4 of this report and decides whether to refer the petitions, and if so where to, and seeks a response to the points raised.**

3. Background

3.1 Standing Orders 3.20 to 3.21 make provision for the presentation of petitions by an Assembly Member at an ordinary meeting of the Assembly.

A petition to be presented must:

(a) Be addressed to the Mayor, the Assembly, a Functional Body (as the case may be);

(b) Clearly indicate the name, address and contact telephone number of the person organising the petition, or where the petition was organised on the internet, its data controller;

(c) Be presented in the form of printed sheets, each of which includes the "prayer" of the petition (the "prayer" is the formal request or other subject matter of the petition) or, if the petition was organised on the internet, clearly demonstrate that internet users who subscribed to the petition knew what the prayer was;

(d) Include each petitioner's name (which may be printed or be in the form of a signature, provided that the signature is legible) and address (sufficient that the person and their address can be identified) or, where the petition was organised on the internet, their names and email addresses;

(e) Indicate the total number of manual or electronic signatories to the petition.

(f) Young people aged 17 or under signing a petition may give their address as that of the school, or other recognised youth group or similar organisation that they attend (with details of their class name where appropriate), provided that the lead petitioner is a teacher at or leader of that school or youth group or similar organisation.

(g) Indicate the total number of manual or electronic signatories to the petition; and

(h) Refer to matters within the responsibilities of the Mayor, the London Assembly or the functional bodies, or to matters of importance to Londoners, including those who visit, live or work in Greater London.

- 3.2 Notice of the intention to present a petition at an Assembly meeting and a copy of the petition must be given to the Executive Director of the Secretariat by no later than 12 noon six clear working days before that meeting.
- 3.3 Under Standing Orders the Member presenting the petition will read out the prayer of the petition (but not the signatories). The Assembly will not debate the petition. If the Assembly agrees without debate, the petition will be forwarded to the Mayor, Functional Body, relevant committee or other organisation with a request for a response to the points made by the petitioner. The response received will be reported to the Assembly for information and forwarded to the petition's organiser. The prayer of the petition and the response received will be published in the appropriate Assembly Minutes.

4. Petitions to be presented

4.1 Notice of the following petitions have been received:

4.2 A petition, received by **Stephen Knight AM**, is to be presented to the London Assembly, in accordance with Standing Orders 3.20 to 3.21, saying:

“We call on the Mayor and Transport for London to increase the frequency of the 481 bus service, which currently only runs hourly.”

The petition has 150 signatories.

The contact person for this petition is: Cllr Jennifer Churchill, 73 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, TW11 0DJ.

4.3 A petition, received by **Valerie Shawcross CBE AM**, is to be presented to the London Assembly, in accordance with Standing Orders 3.20 to 3.21, saying:

“We the undersigned, call upon the Mayor of London to establish a pedestrian crossing and associated road safety features at the junction of the Tulse Hill and Brixton Water Lane, SW2 1DF to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and all road users.”

The petition has 256 signatories.

The contact person for this petition is: Councillor Mary Atkins, c/o Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, SW2 1RW.

- 4.4 A petition, received by **Andrew Dismore AM**, is to be presented to the London Assembly, in accordance with Standing Orders 3.20 to 3.21, saying:

“We the undersigned express our dismay at the scheme to convert Premier House from business premises into flats. More than 100 businesses, charities and other organisations are set lose their premises and hundreds of local jobs are at risk. This move is an economic and social double whammy for Edgware, as many other Edgware businesses themselves depend on those who work in Premier House for their own trade. We are surprised that Barnet Council did not obtain an exemption from the relaxation of the planning rules that have caused this to happen and call upon the Council, even at this late stage, to apply immediately to the Government for such an exemption. We call on the Council and the London Mayor to work with those based in Premier House facing eviction to try to avert this economic catastrophe, and if the businesses are not permitted to remain, to assist them in every possible way to relocate locally.”

The petition has 110 signatories.

The contact person for this petition is: Andrea Billow, Chief Executive of ADDISS, Second Floor, 79 The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4AX.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 By virtue of sections 59, 34 and 53 of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Assembly has the power to do what is recommended in this report.
- 5.2 Under Standing Order 3.20 the petitions presented to the Assembly, together with the pages containing the names and addresses of the signatories to the petition, are documents to which the access to information rules from sections 100A - H and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 apply.
- 5.3 Any applications from Members to see the names and addresses of the signatories to the petition will be considered by the Executive Director of the Secretariat on a case by case basis and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Data Protection Act 1988.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report: None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None.

Contact Officer: John Barry, Principal Committee Manager
Telephone: 020 7983 4425
Email: John.barry@london.gov.uk