

From: Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member – Environment and Transport
Barbara Cooper, Director – Growth, Environment and Transport

To: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 16 September 2015

Subject: “Give Canterbury its Buses back” - Petition Scheme Debate

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Details of petition received which will be the subject of a debate in accordance with the County Council’s Petition Scheme.

For Decision

1. Introduction

(1) In accordance with the Petition Scheme agreed at the County Council on 13 September 2012, any petition on a County Council matter that has more than 2,500 signatures will trigger a debate at the appropriate Cabinet Committee.

(2) The process for the debate on each petition is that the Lead Petitioner(s) will be invited to speak to the petition for up to 5 minutes. There will then be a debate of up to 35 minutes (with each Member speaking for up to 3 minutes) before the Cabinet Member for Community Services is invited to respond for a maximum of 5 minutes at the end of the debate to advise the Cabinet Committee how he intends to respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

(3) As the subject matter of this petition relates to a matter that is the responsibility of the Council’s Executive, the Cabinet Committee may decide whether to make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Community Services to inform the decision-making process.

2. Petition – Give Canterbury its Buses back

(1) Kent County Council has received a petition that says the following;

“We the undersigned petition the council to arrange a Bus Service into Lower St Dunstons Street and St Peter’s Place (through the Westgate Towers). People in Whitstable, Tankerton, Faversham, Blean, Boughton, Rough Common, Harbledown and London Road Estate used to be able to catch a bus to The WESTGATE Towers area to use all small shops, Doctors, Dentists and Canterbury West Station. If Stagecoach will not run this bus service we appeal to the Council to use their influence.

Stagecoach have withdrawn services to lower St Dunstons and St Peter’s Street which is causing hardship to residents and traders.”

- (2) The petition has attracted 2,783 signatures from people who live, work or study in Kent and therefore has triggered a debate at this Cabinet Committee.

A statement from the Lead Petitioners is attached (**Appendix A**) and Ms Debbie Barwick will be attending the meeting and speaking to the petition.

A response from Kent County Council's Public Transport Department is also attached (**Appendix B**).

3. Recommendation

The Cabinet Committee is invited to consider whether to make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport in relation to the action taken by the petitioners.

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Background Documents: None