

From: Benjamin Watts, General Counsel

To: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 19 September 2024

Subject: **Petition Scheme Debate – Blackburn Lodge Petition**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Details of a petition received which will be the subject of a debate, in accordance with the County Council's petition scheme.

For Decision

1. Introduction

1.1. In accordance with the Petition Scheme set out at sections 14.34-14.39 of the Constitution, any petition on a County Council matter which has between 1,500 and 4,999 signatures will trigger a debate at the appropriate Cabinet Committee.

1.2. The process for the debate on each petition is that the lead petitioner will be invited to speak to the petition for a total of 5 minutes. There will then be a debate of up to 45 minutes before the Cabinet Member is invited to respond for a maximum of 5 minutes. As the subject matter of this petition relates to a matter which is the responsibility of the Council's Executive, the Cabinet Committee can decide whether to make a recommendation to the relevant Cabinet Member to inform the decision-making process.

2. Petition – Blackburn Lodge

2.1. A petition was received objecting to the closing of Blackburn Lodge care home in Sheerness. This petition had a total of 2,872 signatures, thus triggering a debate at this Cabinet Committee.

2.2. A statement from the lead petitioner, Cllr Dolley Wooster, is attached at Appendix 1. Cllr Wooster has confirmed that she will be attending the meeting to address the committee about the petition.

2.3. A position statement prepared by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and the Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health is attached at Appendix 2.

Recommendation:

The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is invited to debate the issues raised in the petition, comment to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and decide how it intends to respond to the petition.

Background Documents

[Constitution of Kent County Council](#)

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