

From: Alex King – Deputy Leader
Peter Sass - Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: County Council –16 December 2010

Subject: **Petition Scheme Debates**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Details of Petitions received which will be the subject of debates in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

For Decision

Introduction

1. (1) In accordance with the Petition Scheme agreed at the County Council meeting on 22 July 2010, any petition on a County Council matter relating to a single District Council area that has more than 1,000 signatures will trigger a debate at County Council.

(2) Assuming that the report on the Petition scheme earlier in the meeting is agreed, the process for the debate on each petition is that the Lead Petitioner will be invited to speak to the petition for up to 5 minutes. The Local Member(s) will be invited to speak for up to 5 minutes and there will then be a debate of up to 30 Minutes (with each Member speaking for 3 minutes) before the Cabinet Member is invited to respond for a maximum of 5 minutes. As the subject matters for these petitions relate to matters that are the responsibility of the Council's Executive, the County Council may decide whether to make a recommendation to the relevant Cabinet Member to inform the decision-making process.

Petitions

Petition 1 – Limes Residential Home, Dartford

2. (1) Two petitions have been received opposing the proposed closure of The Limes Residential Home, Dartford, which have both triggered the threshold for a debate. The first petition containing 1979 signatures was received from UNISON Kent Branch. A statement from the Lead Petitioner, Mr David Lloyd, Branch Secretary of UNISON Kent Branch is attached (**Appendix 1**). Mr Lloyd will be attending the meeting and speaking to the petition. The second petition on the same subject was received from The Limes Focus Group and contains 5445 signatures. A representative from The Limes Focus Group will be attending the meeting and will share the 5 minute speaking slot with Mr Lloyd. The Focus Group has also submitted a written statement, which is attached (**Appendix 2**).

Petition 2 – Blackburn Lodge Residential Home, Sheerness

(2) A Petition has been received opposing the proposal to transfer the running of Blackburn Lodge, Sheerness to the private sector. The petition containing 1674 signatures was received from UNISON Kent Branch. A statement from the Lead Petitioner, Mr David Lloyd, is attached (**Appendix 3**). Mr Lloyd will be attending the meeting and speaking to the petition.

Petition 3 – Bowles Lodge, Hawkhurst

(3) A Petition has been received opposing the proposal to close Bowles Lodge, Hawkhurst. The petition containing 2298 was received from UNISON Kent Branch. A statement from the Lead Petitioner, Mr David Lloyd, is attached (**Appendix 4**). Mr Lloyd will be attending the meeting and speaking to the petition.

(4). A briefing report from the Managing Director of Kent Adult Social Services in relation to Petitions 1, 2 and 3 is attached. (**Appendix 5**)

(5) The Chairman of the County Council has indicated that he will hold a combined debate in relation to the above 3 petitions, as they all relate to the same overarching policy proposal.

Petition 4 - Campaign against “A” Frames (Advertising Boards) in Maidstone

(6) A petition has been received requesting the banning of all “A” Frames from Maidstone town centre. The petition contains 3417 signatures. A statement from the Lead Petitioner, Mr Neville Butteriss, is attached (**Appendix 6**). Mr Butteriss will be attending the meeting to speak to his petition.

(7) A briefing report from the Executive Director of Environment, Highways and Waste relation to Petitions 4 is attached. (**Appendix 7**)

RECOMMENDATION

3. (1) The County Council is invited to respond to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services in relation to Petitions 1, 2 and 3.

(2) The County Council is invited to respond to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste in respect of Petition 4.

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Background Documents: None