

<p style="text-align: center;">Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 November 2020</p>	
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Petition Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petition regarding Covid Test Centre in Watney Market 	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council's Petition Scheme provides that where a petition includes the names, addresses and signatures of at least 2,000 persons who live, work or study in the borough, the petitioners may request that a debate be held about the petition at the full Council meeting. This is additional to and distinct from the provision in the Council's Constitution that a petition with at least 30 signatures may be presented to (but not debated by) the Council. The relevant extract from the Petition Scheme is attached at Appendix A.

2. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

- 2.1 The standard format for a Petition Debate for debate is as follows.
- The petitioners to present their petition for a maximum of three minutes.
 - Questions and answers for four minutes.
 - Debate for 15 minutes. All speeches are limited to a maximum of three minutes
 - The Speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) a Cabinet Member to respond to the matters raised
 - If no motion is moved during the debate, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response.
 - If a motion is moved during the debate, the motion will be put to the vote. The petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response.

3. MOTIONS ON THE PETITION

- 3.1 During his or her speech any Member may move a motion for the Council's consideration relevant to matters in the petition (this does not require the suspension of standing orders). It is requested that Motions relating to the petition be submitted to Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to allow full circulation.
- 3.2 Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote.
- 3.3 In relation to executive functions, the Council does not have powers to override any executive decision of the Mayor or substitute its own decision. The Council may however pass a motion expressing a view on the matter or referring the matter to the Mayor, calling on him to take some action, or consider or reconsider a decision, with recommendations to inform that consideration. Officers will advise on the constitutional validity of any motion that may be moved

4. CONTENT OF THE PETITION

- 4.1 The following petition containing over 2,000 signatures has been received for consideration at the Council meeting.

The text of the petition is below:

Petition regarding Covid Test Centre in Watney Market submitted by Jakir Hussain and others

We the undersigned petition the council to remove the Covid test Centre from Watney Market to somewhere less congested and more suitable with consultation from the local residents

APPENDICES ATTACHED

Appendix A – Extract from the Council's Petition Scheme.

APPENDIX A – EXTRACT FROM THE COUNCIL’S PETITION SCHEME:

5. PRESENTATION OF A PETITION TO ELECTED COUNCILLORS

Subject to your petition containing sufficient signatures as set out below, you may request to present the petition to a meeting of elected councillors. There are a number of ways in which this can be done.

Debate at a Council Meeting

If your petition includes the names, addresses and signatures of at least 2,000 persons who live, work or study in the borough you may request that a debate be held about the petition at the full Council meeting. The Council will endeavour to consider your petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. We will tell you the date of the meeting at which the debate will take place once this is confirmed.

At the meeting, the petition organiser or another signatory to the petition will be given three minutes to present the petition. The person who presents the petition must live, work or study within the borough. The petition will then be debated by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. Following the debate, the Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee.

Where the issue is one on which the Council’s Executive (Cabinet) are required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. As the petition organiser, you will receive written confirmation of this decision, which will also be published on our website.

In the event that two or more petitions which are substantially the same are received from different petition organisers, the Chief Executive may aggregate the number of valid signatures in each petition for the purpose of determining whether the threshold to trigger a Council debate of the matters raised has been reached if that is the wish of the petition organisers.