

Decision Maker: Council

Date: 14th April 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: Petition

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme, if petitioners are dissatisfied with the Council's response to a petition they can request that the issue be brought before a meeting of the full Council for consideration, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold required. The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes.

1.2 A petition has been received from the Stop the Bedroom Tax Campaign calling on the Council to use its powers to ensure that no Bromley resident faces eviction or forced relocation as a result of the bedroom tax or the benefit cap limit. The petition and the Council's initial response, provided by the Resources Portfolio Holder, Councillor Graham Arthur, are set out below in paragraph 3.2 and Appendix A respectively.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

Council is requested to consider the case made by the petitioners.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Petitions are dealt with according to the Council's agreed Petition Scheme.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding: N/A
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The Council's Petition Scheme allows for petitioners to present their case to full Council if they are dissatisfied with the Council's response to a petition, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold required of 500. The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes. Once Council has considered the matter, it can choose whether or not to recommend any action. If there are any recommendations for action by councillors or officers then a report back to the next scheduled full Council meeting is required, setting out the action that has been taken.

3.2 One qualifying petition, with over 670 validated signatures, has been received from Ms Paula Peters of Bromley Disabled People Against Cuts as follows -

“Stop the Bedroom Tax Campaign

- **No Evictions**
- **No forced relocations**

We the undersigned demand that the Council will give a guarantee that they will use all the powers they have to ensure that no Bromley resident will face eviction or forced relocation as a result of the bedroom tax or the benefit cap limit.”

3.3 In line with the Council's Petition Scheme, the Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Graham Arthur, responded to the petition – his letter is set out at Appendix A.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None