

Decision Maker: **COUNCIL**

Date: **Monday 11 December 2023**

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

Title: **PETITION**

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

Ward: Clock House

1. Reason for decision/report and options

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme, if petitioners are dissatisfied with the Council's response to their petition they can present their case to full Council, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold of 500 signatures for a traditional paper petition, or 4,000 signatures for an online petition. The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes, after which Members can debate the issues raised. The choice before the Council is essentially to either recommend the Executive, or the relevant Portfolio Holder, to take action, or it can note the petition and decide that no further action be taken.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council is requested to consider the case made by the lead petitioner and either recommend action to be taken by the Executive or relevant Portfolio Holder, or note the petition and decide that no further action be taken.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
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Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
(5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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Financial

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

1. Number of staff (*current and additional*): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Council decisions are not subject to call-in
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
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Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
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Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: Not Applicable
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Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: Not Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (*current and projected*):
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
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 their petition, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold (for paper petitions) of 500 signatures from people who live, work or study in the borough. The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes – they do not take part in any subsequent debate and must return to the public gallery. Once Members have considered the matter, they can choose whether to recommend any further action, or to agree that no further action should be taken.
- 3.2 The petition to be considered is entitled "Save Lewis House" and it states –
"We, the undersigned, object to the proposed demolition of Lewis House and the displacement or closure of the service it provides."
- 3.3 Lewis House is a Council owned property adjoining the Spa Leisure Centre in Beckenham; it is currently used to provide services for people with disabilities. The Council is in the process of enhancing the service and moving it to more suitable premises.
- 3.4 The petition was submitted to the Council on 19th October 2023. It includes 676 signatures, of which 511 are from people providing valid addresses in the borough (mainly in Beckenham). The number of signatures is therefore above the threshold allowing the lead petitioner to speak at a full Council meeting. The following reply was sent to the lead petitioner on 27th November 2023, explaining the Council's position –
"The Council re-states its position on this. The service being provided is not being closed. The service is to be moved to a more appropriate site, which has full disabled access and where the service can be provided by qualified Occupational Therapy staff directly employed by the Council. The service will be enhanced by the extension of the provision of Assistive Technology in line with the Council's ambitions to enable disabled people to live as independently as possible."
- 3.5 The lead petitioner, Mr Garnet Frost, has indicated that he is not satisfied with the Council's response and would like to take up the opportunity to address full Council in support of his petition.

Non-Applicable Headings:	Impact on vulnerable adults and children/Policy/Finance/Legal/Human Resources/Procurement/Property/Carbon Reduction/Local Economy/health and Wellbeing/Customers/Ward Councillors
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Petition "Save Lewis House"