

Summary Sheet

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 28 February 2018

Report Title

Petition – Provision of In-house Services for Vulnerable Adults in Rotherham

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

All

Summary

A petition has been submitted by Unison containing 6,569 signatures calling upon the Council to ensure that there are adequate in-house services for vulnerable adults in Rotherham and to keep open the Addison and Oaks Day Centre.

Under the Petition Scheme adopted in May 2017, where a petition contains more than 2,000 signatures it will be debated at a meeting of the Council. This report is submitted to confirm that the requirement for a debate has been met.

Recommendations

1. That the representations of the petitioners be received.
2. That the Council debate the proposed action called for by the petition.
3. That the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health write to the lead petitioner to confirm the outcome of the debate and respond to the petition formally on behalf of the Council.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Council's Petition Scheme

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Petition – Provision of In-house Services for Vulnerable Adults in Rotherham

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the representations of the petitioners be received.
- 1.2 That the Council debate the proposed action called for by the petition.
- 1.3 That the Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health write to the lead petitioner to confirm the outcome of the debate and respond to the petition formally on behalf of the Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 A petition has been submitted by Unison containing 6,569 signatures calling upon the Council to ensure that there are adequate in-house services for vulnerable adults in Rotherham and to keep open the Addison and Oaks Day Centre. 329 of the signatures were received on an e-petition, whilst the remaining 6,242 signatures were submitted via a paper petition to Democratic Services.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Under the Petition Scheme adopted in May 2017, where a petition contains more than 2,000 signatures it will be debated at the next ordinary meeting of the Council.
- 3.2 A representative of the petitioners will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will then decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.
- 3.3 The scheme makes provision for the Council to:
 - action what the petition has requested
 - not to take the action requested for the reasons put forward in the debate, or
 - to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee.

In this case, the petition relates to a matter where the Cabinet will be required to make a decision later in the year. The scheme makes provision for the Council to make recommendations to Cabinet to inform that decision. However, the Cabinet cannot be bound by such recommendations and nor can the Council make the final decision on the issue. The petition organiser will be sent written confirmation of this decision within 10 working days. This confirmation will also be published on the Council's website.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 Having regard to the Petition Scheme, the Council is recommended to debate the proposal within the petition. As outlined above, the Council has the discretion to make a recommendation to the Cabinet on the issues raised in the petition.
- 4.2 Following the outcome of the debate, the petition scheme requires the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health, the responsible Strategic Director in respect of the services under discussion, to write to the petition organiser to respond formally on behalf of the Council. The response will also be published on the Council's website.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation has taken place in the preparation of this report which is submitted to provide procedural guidance on the handling of the petition.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 Whilst the petition will be debated at the Council meeting on 28 February 2018, the issues raised in the petition relate to a decision to be taken at a Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting in May 2018. Subject to the outcome of the Council debate, the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health will be responsible for incorporating any recommendations within the report to be considered by the Cabinet later in the year.
- 6.2 In procedural terms, as set out above, the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health will provide a formal response to the petition following the Council debate. The petition organiser will be provided with the response within ten working days of the meeting.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 The report approved by Cabinet in July 2017, "outcome of the consultation and recommendations of the Learning disability Offer and the future of in-house services for Adults with a Learning disability and or Autism", set out the financial implications associated with the review of these services.
- 7.2 The report noted that the Medium Term Financial Strategy includes total savings of £4.2m over 3 years based on the reconfiguration of learning disability services, moving away from traditional building based in-house provision to more personalised and independent services.
- 7.3 The report also agreed further consultation on services for Learning Disability and or Autism which closed on 22nd December 2017. The financial implications of the proposed action called for by the petition cannot therefore be assessed until the Council has considered the outcome of the further consultation and developed future service proposals.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 Any decision required in respect of the subject matter of the petition would be an executive decision and therefore a matter for Cabinet. Any legal implications associated with any future decision will be reported to the relevant Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications associated with this report. Any human resources implications associated future proposals will be reported to the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting when a decision is required.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The petition has been submitted to raise concerns on the part of signatories that future proposals will impact on vulnerable adults. The implications for vulnerable adults arising from future proposals will be addressed in future reports for determination at a Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting.

11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken separately to inform the review that will lead to the proposals in the report to be considered at the Cabinet and Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting in May 2018.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 12.1 There are no direct implications for partners or other directorates.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 There are no risks directly associated with this report.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

Anne Marie Lubanski, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing & Public Health
James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager

Approvals obtained from on behalf of:-

	Named Officer	Date
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services	Judith Badger	20.02.2018
Assistant Director of Legal Services	Dermot Pearson	20.02.2018
Head of Procurement (if appropriate)		
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)		

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