

APPENDIX B

8A Presentation of petitions by members of the public at Council meetings

- (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), a member of the public may present a qualifying petition and speak for a maximum of five minutes.
- (2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), a member of the public may ask a member to present a qualifying petition on their behalf.
- (3) A qualifying petition is a petition within the meaning of paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12 of the Council's Scheme for Handling Petitions, notice of which has been given at least ten days before the day of the Council meeting.

8B Debate on petition

- (1) A qualifying petition with signatures meeting the threshold set out in paragraph 19 of the Council's Scheme for Handling Petitions will automatically trigger a debate of the Council, except where the petition is asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.
- (2) A petition meeting the criteria set out in sub-paragraph (1) may be debated at the meeting at which it is presented, or at a later meeting.
- (3) There shall be a guillotine on the debate of a petition of 15 minutes, after which the vote will be put, unless the Mayor at his or her discretion extends the debate.
- (4) The Council shall decide how to respond to the petition and shall decide either:
 - (a) To take the action the petition requests;
 - (b) Not to take the action the petition requests for reasons stated in the debate;
 - (c) To commission further investigation into the matter, which may include reference to a particular committee for their views, prior to consideration at a future meeting of the Council;
 - (d) Refer the petition to Cabinet where it relates to an executive function, in which case the Council may make recommendations to Cabinet.