

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**FULL COUNCIL**

**15 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Report of:** Interim Service Director – Legal & Democratic Services

**Title:** **Petition – 20 mph speed limit**

**Ward:** Citywide

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That Full Council debates the petition and decides how to respond to the petition, and the body to which the petition may be referred.**

**Summary**

1. Under the Council's petitions scheme, where a petition has 3,500 or more signatures from people who live, work or study in Bristol, the petition organiser can request a Full Council debate.
2. The Council has received a petition entitled "Scrap the 20 mph speed limit in Bristol and restore common sense"
3. The petition organiser is Scott Sheppard. Mr Sheppard has requested that the Full Council debates the petition.

**Details of the petition**

1. The petition started on 2 March 2015 and closed on 1 September 2015 after running for a period of 182 days.
2. A total of 5060 signatories to the petition were from Bristol electoral wards. In addition, there were 1757 signatories from South Gloucestershire, 407 from North Somerset and 177 from Bath & North East Somerset. There were 732 signatories from outside of the Bristol/West of England area.

3. The wording of the petition is as follows:

“Scrap the 20 mph limit in Bristol and restore common sense: George Ferguson has wasted £2.3m of tax payers money to implement a completely ludicrous 20mph limit over most of Bristol which he intends to extend to the whole city. No driver objects to a 20 mph limit near a school for example but a blanket roll out is totally absurd. We the undersigned are of the opinion that roads will only be made more dangerous with frustrated drivers and people watching the speedo rather than where they're going!! 30mph has been in place for many many years, and is the national speed limit because it is ample control in urban areas except for specific spots. Restore common sense and reverse this stupid waste of money. The Bristol public don't need GF preaching this rubbish at the tax payer expense.”

4. The Full Council is requested to debate the petition and decide how to respond to the petition.
5. Under the petition scheme, the petition organiser is permitted up to 5 minutes to present and speak to the petition. The petition scheme allows a period of up to 15 minutes for discussion by councillors at the Full Council meeting. On this occasion, the Lord Mayor has determined, in consultation with the party group leaders / whips that up to 30 minutes will be permitted for this item.
6. The Full Council has agreed the following in relation to dealing with petitions with over 3,500 signatures:

The topic of the debate should be referred to the Mayor / Cabinet, or other relevant body with the petitioner's views and Full Council's views.

The matters addressed by this petition are executive functions and therefore are ultimately for the Mayor to determine. Transport and traffic issues fall within the “portfolio” of the Assistant Mayor for Place.

**The Full Council is therefore recommended to refer the petition to the Mayor / Assistant Mayor for Place, together with the comments as expressed by members in the debate at this meeting, in order that they can consider their response.**

## Detailed report on petition

### 1. Petition Summary Details

#### 1.1. Title: “Scrap the 20mph limit in Bristol and restore common sense”

Petition organiser: Scott Sheppard

Format of petition: Electronic only.

#### 1.2. Petition Dates:

The petition was raised on Monday, 2 March 2015 and closed for signatures on Tuesday, 1 September 2015 after running for a period of 182 days.

#### 1.3. Statistical Overview of Signatures:

A total of 5060 signatories to this e-petition were from Bristol electoral wards. In addition, there were 1757 signatories from South Gloucestershire, 407 from North Somerset, and 177 from Bath & North East Somerset. There were 732 signatories from outside of the Bristol/West of England area.

The distribution of the petitioners was:

Ward	Total	%
Ashley	78	0.96
Avonmouth	245	3.01
Bath and North East Somerset	177	2.18
Bedminster	139	1.71
Bishopston	88	1.08
Bishopsworth	141	1.73
Brislington East	180	2.21
Brislington West	176	2.16
Cabot	87	1.07
Clifton	94	1.16
Clifton East	84	1.03
Cotham	80	0.98
Easton	92	1.13
Eastville	179	2.2
Filwood	138	1.7
Frome Vale	207	2.55
Hartcliffe	149	1.83
Henbury	162	1.99
Hengrove	136	1.67
Henleaze	116	1.43

Ward	Total	%
Hillfields	287	3.53
Horfield	125	1.54
Kingsweston	220	2.71
Knowle	143	1.76
Lawrence Hill	59	0.73
Lockleaze	125	1.54
North Somerset	407	5
Redland	103	1.27
South Gloucestershire	1757	21.6
Southmead	140	1.72
Southville	114	1.4
St George East	322	3.96
St George West	173	2.13
Stockwood	157	1.93
Stoke Bishop	128	1.57
Westbury-on-Trym	188	2.31
Whitchurch Park	101	1.24
Windmill Hill	104	1.28
Outside Area	732	9