

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

19 JANUARY 2016

Report of: Interim Service Director – Legal & Democratic Services

Title: Petition – “Open a new railway station at Ashton Gate”

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 “Open a new railway station at Ashton Gate.”
3. The petition organiser has requested that the Full Council debates the petition.

Details of the petition

1. The wording of the petition is as follows:

Petition title/subject: “Open a new railway station at Ashton Gate”

Action requested by petitioners:

We are local residents and organisations campaigning for a new railway station in Ashton Gate on the Portishead branch line. We want a new railway station opening in 2019 with two trains an hour in both directions – towards Portishead and Temple Meads.

The petitioners call on the Mayor and City Council of Bristol to do all that is possible to ensure a new train station is built at Ashton Gate as

part of the MetroWest Phase 1 programme. In particular we want the Council to commission a new business case, to be delivered in the first half of 2016, that establishes the viability of the station by researching and taking into account the number of users who will be visitors to and employees of nearby businesses, organisations and facilities including Bristol Sport, Babcock, Imperial Tobacco, UWE, Ashton Court, Ashton Park School, North Street theatres, shops and cafes / restaurants and others, as well as local residents and those travelling into Bristol from the South West.

2. The petition secured 5633 signatures, 4535 of which were from Bristol and the “travel to work” area.
3. The Full Council is requested to debate the petition and decide how to respond to the petition.
4. Under the petition scheme, the petition organiser(s) (Stuart Haines / David Lloyd and Roger Bealing) are 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.
5. 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.

The Full Council is therefore recommended to refer the petition to the Mayor, together with the comments as expressed by members in the debate at this meeting, in order that he can consider his response (in liaison with the relevant Assistant Mayor as appropriate).