

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

15 MARCH 2016

Report of: Shahzia Daya, Interim Service Director – Legal & Democratic Services

Title: **Petition – Local democracy implications of proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

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 "Local democracy implications of proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership."
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: "Local democracy implications of proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership."

"We, the undersigned, call on Bristol City Council to thoroughly investigate and debate the impact of the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on those who live, work or study in the city and to widely communicate its conclusions. We are particularly

concerned about the potential implications of the proposed Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism with respect to local democracy. We also call on the Council to monitor development of the proposed TTIP (and any comparable successor), and to review/restate its views accordingly.”

The petition secured 4093 signatures, 3774 of which were from Bristol and the immediate “travel to work” area.

2. The Full Council is requested to debate the petition and decide how to respond to the petition.
3. Under the petition scheme, the petition organiser(s), Trevor Johnson, is permitted up to 5 minutes to present and speak to the petition. The petition scheme allows a further period of up to 15 minutes for discussion of the petition by councillors at the Full Council meeting.
4. 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 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).