

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**FULL COUNCIL**

**15 MARCH 2016**

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

**Title:** Petition – Keep and extend 20 mph speed limits

**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 "Keep and extend 20 mph speed limits."
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: "Keep and extend 20 mph speed limits."

"We, the undersigned, appreciate the 20 mph limits in Bristol. We are convinced that Bristol's narrow streets and roads in densely populated neighbourhoods or around parks are not suitable for 30 mph traffic. Reducing the maximum speed makes a much more liveable city with pleasant streets, significantly improves safety of all road and pavement users, especially of children. It also has a huge positive impact on cycling by allowing cyclists to keep up with the main flow of traffic or,

when this is not possible, making cars pass much more safely. It even helps businesses by making streets more friendly and stopping easier for cars. We therefore support and encourage the Council to keep and extend the scheme in residential areas.”

The petition secured 4138 signatures, 3656 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) (Marton Balazs) is permitted up to 5 minutes to present and speak to the petition. Mr Balazs has advised that he will be attending the meeting but has requested that Suzanne Audrey present the petition on his behalf. 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).**