

# Full Council

11 March 2025



**Report of:** Tim O’Gara, Director Legal and Democratic Services

**Title:** Petition Debate: Save Bristol’s Museums

## Recommendation

**That Full Council debates the petition and refers it to the Leader / relevant Policy Committee Chair for a formal response.**

## Summary

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.

The Council has received a petition in relation to Save Bristol’s Museums

The petition organisers have requested that Full Council debates the petition.



## Details of the petition

1. The wording of the petition is as follows:

Petition title / subject: **Save Bristol's Museums**

We the undersigned oppose the closure of the Council's historical museums at Blaise, Red Lodge and the Georgian House.

These three buildings, and their collections, are an important part of the city's heritage and community. They play a pivotal role Bristol's cultural offer.

The saving proposed is tiny in comparison to the cultural vandalism that their closure would cause. If closed the Council would still have to maintain the listed buildings but would lose the ability to derive any income from the assets.

The proposed closures are short sighted. The three sites should remain open to the public whilst the council looks at other means to raise income from the buildings.

2. The petition has been organised by Councillor Mark Weston.
3. The petition has secured 3708 signatures to date, 3501 from Bristol residents. Verified as of 20 February 2025.
4. Full Council is asked to debate 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 further period of up to 15 minutes for discussion of the petition by councillors at the Full Council meeting.
6. The Full Council has agreed the following in relation to dealing with petitions with over 3500 signatures: The topic of the debate should be referred to the Leader / relevant Policy Committee Chair, or other relevant body with the petitioner's views and Full Council's views.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That Full Council debates the petition and refers it to the Leader / relevant Policy Committee Chair for a formal response.**