

Full Council
14 November 2017



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

Title: **Petition debate – “Save Redland library”**

Ward: Redland

Recommendation

That Full Council debates the petition and refers it to the Mayor / relevant Cabinet member 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 entitled “Save Redland library”

The petition organiser has requested that Full Council debates the petition.



Details of the petition

1. The wording of the petition is as follows:

Petition title / subject: "Save Redland library"

Petition wording:

"We ask the Mayor and Bristol City Council to reconsider the withdrawal of funding for Redland Library by the Library Service, which would be the outcome of any of the options within the Neighbourhood Consultation document published on 13 June 2017. We believe the Council should seek additional funding to keep a library service available to all communities in the city."

Additional comments / background information from petition organiser:

"Redland Library is the third most-used branch library in the city, based on each of: total visits, items borrowed, computer users and active members. It is well placed to serve several neighbourhoods, as shown in the wide range of postcodes of its users, and has good train and bus connections. It has served as a public library since it was built in 1885, is on the Local List for its communal, architectural and historic value. It provides a meeting place for parents with young children, and for the elderly, and is also increasingly being used as a community building out of library hours because of its good location and the lack of other community resources in the area."

2. The petition organiser is Merche Clark.
3. The petition secured 4269 signatures meeting the petition scheme criteria.
4. The 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 Mayor/Cabinet, or other relevant body with the petitioner's views and Full Council's views.

RECOMMENDATION

Following the debate, the Full Council is recommended to refer the petition to the Mayor, in order that the Mayor can consider his response, in liaison with the relevant Cabinet member.