

Full Council
15 January 2018



Report of: Tim O’Gara, Director - Legal & Democratic Services

Title: **Petition debate – Compulsory Purchase Order for Hamilton House**

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 in relation to Hamilton House, Stokes Croft.

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: Compulsory Purchase Order for Hamilton House

Petition wording:

“We the undersigned call upon Bristol City Council to step in and protect Hamilton House as a community asset by purchasing the building.

By doing this, Bristol City Council has the opportunity to become a world leader in supporting community to become vibrant, thriving and self-sustaining, in-line with its own ‘Development Framework Core Strategy’ (see below).

Despite the building being put up for sale in 2016, the building owners Connolly & Callaghan (C&) have not entertained any bids to buy Hamilton House. Our request is for Bristol City Council to secure a purchase of Hamilton House, either through direct purchase from C&C or, should this not be successful, through a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).

With ownership secured, our proposal would then be for a subsequent Community Share Issue (CSI) which would enable direct community ownership, allowing profits to be reinvested back into the project and other community initiatives. With cuts to government funding and grants, this self-sustaining model enables the resources of the community to fill a widening gap in the third sector. The scale of the community has been proven to have sufficient resources to sustain this model and community ownership empowers local people to own a stake in their own future. This model has been proven to create financially and socially self-sustaining community ventures.

We believe that Coexist are best placed to facilitate this Community Share Issue having been guardians of the building for the previous 10 years. Coexist is a critically acclaimed social impact generator whose work has been studied as far afield as South Korea, Sweden and Canada. Reaching over 2.5 million people a year and collectively generating £21 million annually for the local economy, it is a flagship project for change in the City of Bristol.

By issuing a Compulsory Purchase Order for Hamilton House, Bristol City Council now has the chance to join other councils worldwide that are pioneering socially-led income generation while protecting important community spaces. This step will make Bristol truly unique in the UK - creating a living example of sustainable social investment in our cities.”

2. The petition has been organised by Save Hamilton House (Claire Holmes, Sean Redmon).
3. The petition has secured 4483 signatures to date from Bristol residents.
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.