

Full Council
12 November 2019



Report of: The Monitoring Officer

Title: Petition Debate – Publish full feasibility report on Cumberland Basin road options

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 options for the proposed 'Western Harbour' development.

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: **Publish full feasibility report on Cumberland Basin road options**

“Please make public the full feasibility report looking at detailed options for the Cumberland Basin ('Western Harbour') road network.

Why is this important?

There is considerable public confusion and concern over the three options proposed for the Cumberland Basin road network in Bristol. In the current Bristol City Council consultation it is stated: "In 2018, Bristol City Council commissioned Arup, Alec French and JLL to undertake an initial feasibility study to consider approaches for reconfiguring traffic movements across the Western Harbour. A number of approaches were considered against their ability to provide transformative growth and regeneration opportunities, whilst also considering the impact on the local environment and on traffic flow. From this initial assessment, three road network approaches have been looked at in more detail.

The three chosen options all list considerable weaknesses including: environmental harm to the river and riverbank, community severance (areas being 'cut off' from each other by busy roads), harm to historic assets, harm to iconic views of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, changing the cycle route from a rural to a heavily-trafficked area, increased heavy traffic alongside the Nova Scotia and Pump House pubs, and increased air pollution. Local residents and businesses are also fearful about the future of their homes and premises.

Given the importance of this for the future of the city, we urge Bristol's Mayor and Council to publish the full feasibility report.”

2. The petition has been organised by Suzanne Audrey.
3. The petition has secured 3,614 signatures from those who qualify as living, working or studying in Bristol as of verification on 22 October 2019.
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.