

Full Council

18 October 2022



Report of: Director Legal and Democratic Services

Title: Petition Debate – ‘Road Usage for Hospitality.’

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 with the title ‘Road Usage for Hospitality’.

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: **'Road Usage for Hospitality.'**

Petition wording:

This statement is being made by BARBI, the British Association of Restaurants, Bars and Independents in Bristol which represents over 450 venues and 11,000 hospitality workers across the region in regards Road Usage for Hospitality businesses.

We are extremely concerned for those venues that sit outside specific pedestrianised or semi pedestrianised zones, with no pub garden or outdoor space and where the pavement is too narrow to put tables and chairs. They have been utilising parking bays and parts of the road but are now told they have to remove this before the end of October 2022.

We urge the mayor and his administration to use all their powers to protect these businesses and jobs by invoking Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's), temporary TRO's or emergency TRO's through until September 2023 in line with the extension of off sales for venues. Whilst powers can be handed down nationally from government, this can also be a local authority decision.

The recent letter issued by Bristol City Council (attached Outdoor Hospitality Structures and Licenses) has caused widespread confusion as it stated the following.

All businesses including cafes, pubs, bars and restaurants must ask the council for permission to have tables, chairs and other pavement furniture or structures on the pavement or road.

Businesses with existing structures will be given time to retrospectively apply for the necessary licences or planning permission.

This does not apply to businesses using the road outside designated zones.

Bristol City Council has announced a cost of living crisis. Now is not the time to further jeopardise independent Bristol hospitality businesses who have worked hard to survive the pandemic and keep their staff in jobs.

2. The petition has been organised by 'BARBIE – Bristol Association of Restaurants, Bars and Independent Establishments' (Brendan Murphy)
3. The petition has secured 4572 signatures to date, 3984 from Bristol residents. Verified as of 17 October 2022.
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.