

To: Council

Date: 14th April 2014

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: PETITIONS SCHEME – KEEP TEMPLE COWLEY POOLS OPEN

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To advise on the procedure that Council needs to follow under the Council's Petitions Scheme following receipt of the petition entitled 'Keep Temple Cowley Pools Open'.

Report Approved by: Jeremy Thomas, Head of Law and Governance

Policy Framework: Not applicable

Recommendation(s): Council is RECOMMENDED to follow the procedure for large petitions in the Council's Petitions Scheme by hearing the head petitioner for the petition entitled "Keep Temple Cowley Pools Open", debating the petition and deciding whether to make any recommendations to the Executive.

1. A petition entitled "Keep Temple Cowley Pools Open" was handed in by Mr Nigel Gibson at the Council meeting on 3rd February 2014. The petition contains 1,587 signatures. The petition reads as follows:-

"We the undersigned strongly oppose Oxford City Council's plan to demolish Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre in order to sell publicly owned land for housing. We believe this is a short-sighted, destructive policy which will have detrimental effects on health and well-being, particularly of the most vulnerable people who use the centre to maintain their health and quality of life, and independence from the NHS, for as long as possible. We call upon Oxford City Council to work immediately with the Save Temple Cowley Pool Campaign to find the best way to enhance and preserve the existing facilities in Temple Cowley".
2. Council has adopted a Petitions Scheme. The scheme says that petitions containing over 1,500 signatures will be debated by full Council. A sufficient number of signatures to achieve the 1,500 mark have

accompanying names and addresses. It is not of course possible to check whether any signatories from outside Oxford work or study in the City.

3. The Petitions Scheme provides that the petition organiser will be given five minutes at Council to present the petition and that Council will then debate the petition. There are no minimum requirements in law or in the Council's Petitions Scheme as to the format, quality or duration of the debate. Where the subject matter of a petition is an Executive function then any recommendations flowing from the debate must be made to the Executive. The subject matter of this petition is an Executive function.

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Background papers: Petition entitled "Keep Temple Cowley Pools Open"

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