

**To:** Council

**Date:** 7 December 2015

**Report of:** Head of Law and Governance

**Title of Report:** Petition to keep the management of East Oxford Community Centre under the control of the people of East Oxford'

Summary and recommendations	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To set before Council a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council's petitions scheme.
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Executive Board Member with responsibility for this area:</b>	Councillor Bob Price, Leader of the Council Councillor Christine Simm, Board member for Culture and Communities
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Not applicable
<b>Recommendation(s): That Council :</b>	
1. follow the procedure for large petitions in the Council's Petitions Scheme by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hearing the head petitioner for the petition;</li> <li>• debating the petition; and</li> <li>• deciding whether to make any recommendations to either the City Executive Board and, or to officers.</li> </ul>	

## Introduction

1. The Council's scheme for handling petitions is set out in the Constitution. The scheme specifies that petitions requesting action within the Council's powers and containing over 1,500 signatures will be considered by Full Council. The scheme also specifies that the petition organiser can address Council for up to five minutes at the start of the debate in order to present the petition.
2. The petitions are available on the relevant section of the Council's website.

## The petition

3. A paper petition signed by 1,600 people was delivered to the Head of Law and Governance on 18 November 2015.

4. The petition states: *'Help stop Labour controlled Oxford City Council takeover of East Oxford Community Centre. We the undersigned hereby demonstrate our support for keeping the management of EOCC under the control of the people of Oxford East'*
5. Signatures are valid and come from a range of postcodes. Not all signatories may live, work or study in the city. The Council's petition scheme does not require these conditions to be met before accepting a signature as valid.

The petition therefore meets the criteria for debate at Council.

### **Actions for Council**

6. The petition organiser has been invited to present the petition and under the scheme's rules is permitted to address Council for up to five minutes at the start of this item.
7. Council is asked to debate the petition and make recommendations as it thinks appropriate. There are no minimum requirements in law or in the Constitution as to the format, or duration of the debate.
8. The subject matter of this petition is an Executive function so any recommendations from Council will subsequently be presented to the City Executive Board for their consideration.
9. Separate to this petition, the City Executive Board will consider a report on the Council's strategy for community centre's at its 17 December meeting.

### **Financial implications**

10. The implications of this report will depend on Council's recommendations, if any, and Council should be mindful of the possible costs in formulating its recommendations.

### **Legal issues**

11. The implications will depend on Council's recommendations, if any.

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**Background Papers:** petition on [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)