

**To: Council**

**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013**

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

**Title of Report: PETITIONS SCHEME – TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF OXFORD**

### Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To advise on the procedure that Council needs to follow under the Council's Petitions Scheme in respect of large petitions, and to provide information specifically on the petition entitled 'To benefit the people of Oxford'.

**Report Approved by:**

**Legal: \*\*\*\*\***

**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 "To benefit the people of Oxford" and to then debate the petition and decide how to advise the Executive.

1. A petition entitled "To benefit the people of Oxford" was handed in at the full Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013. The petition contains 1,756 signatures. The petition reads as follows:-

"We call on Oxford City Council to enable Council officers and members of the Save Temple Cowley Pools Campaign to hold a series of meetings where they can discuss, identify and clarify areas of common understanding based on a full, open and transparent exchange of information. These meetings should be apolitical, jointly chaired, open to the public and develop a consensus so that we can agree a way forward that will benefit the people of Oxford".

2. Council adopted a Petitions Scheme (as required by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) in July 2010. The scheme says that petitions containing over 1,500 signatures will be debated by full Council. The 2009 Act says that in order for

signatures on a petition to count they must give the signatories name and address and those people so signing must live, work or study in the authority's area. 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 says that the petition organiser will be given five minutes at Council to present the petition and that Council will then debate the petition. Where the issue is one on which the Council's Executive is responsible for reaching the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. The subject matter of this petition is an Executive function.
4. Council is asked to follow the procedure for large petitions in the Council's Petitions Scheme and decide how it wishes to proceed.

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**Background papers: None**

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