

**To: Council**

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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

**Title of Report: PETITIONS SCHEME**

## **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 'Oxford City Council must deliver value for the community'.

**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 'Oxford City Council MUST deliver value for the community', debating the petition and deciding whether to make any recommendations to the City Executive Board.

## **Introduction and Background**

1. A petition entitled 'Oxford City Council must deliver value for the community' was handed in by Mr Nigel Gibson at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014. The petition contains just over 1800 signatures. The petition reads as follows:-

"We the undersigned express our support for the Save TCP cic plans for the Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre and ask Oxford City Council to accept this bid as offering best value for the community and so keep health, fitness community facilities on this site".

2. Council has adopted a Petitions Scheme. The scheme details that petitions containing over 1,500 signatures from people who live, work or study in the city will be debated by Full Council. A sufficient number of signatures to achieve the 1,500 mark on this petition 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.

## **Actions for Council**

1. The Petitions Scheme provides that the petition organiser will be given five minutes at the Council meeting to present the petition and that Council will then debate it. Mr Gibson has been invited to do this. There are no minimum requirements in law or in the Council's Petitions Scheme as to the format, quality or duration of the debate.
2. The subject matter of this petition is an Executive function so any recommendations from this Council debate will be presented to the City executive Board for their consideration.

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**Background papers: Petition entitled "Oxford City Council MUST deliver value for the community"**

**Version number: 2**