

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 20 March 2023  
**Report of:** Head of Law and Governance  
**Title of Report:** Petition submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules – Save Tumbling Bay

| <b>Summary and recommendations</b>  |  |
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| <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>Cabinet Member with responsibility:</b>  | Councillor Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks  |
| <b>Corporate Priority:</b>  | Not applicable   |
| <b>Policy Framework:</b>  | Council Strategy 2020-24   |
| <b>Recommendation(s): That Council in accordance with the Council’s petitions scheme:</b>   |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Hears</b> the address by the petition organiser;</li> <li>2. <b>Debates</b> the proposal contained within the petition and any relevant motions/recommendations submitted by Members by the deadline; and</li> <li>3. <b>Agrees</b> the action it wishes to take.</li> </ol> |  |

## The petition

1. An ePetition titled ‘Save Tumbling Bay’ was submitted in accordance with the Council’s petitions scheme.
2. The petition is available to view on the 38 Degrees website [here](#) and states in full:

***We the undersigned petition the council to Preserve the historic character and shape of Tumbling Bay swimming pool on the River Thames, and ensure that ladders or steps continue to be provided into the water.***

We call on Oxford City Council to:

- Preserve the historic character and shape of Tumbling Bay river pool by seeking to repair or replace the existing wall.
- Ensure that ladders continue to be in situ to allow people to get out of the river safely.

- Work with local residents to explore ways in which funds could be raised to pay for the renovation work.

*Tumbling Bay is a much loved Victorian river swimming pool on a backwater of the River Thames just behind Botley Park in West Oxford.*

*For over 150 years local children have learned to swim in the pool. The north wall is in need of repair and the site has been fenced off for several months. The Council's current plan is to smash up the existing wall to produce a sloping bank that will erase this valuable piece of local heritage.*

*While no longer an official bathing spot, Tumbling Bay is very much enjoyed by local residents. Hundreds of people swim there in the summer and a small number all year round. It is safer than the river as there are no boats going past. It is also part of our local history.*

3. 2,267 people signed the ePetition.
4. In accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part 11.15) and the Council's petitions scheme (Part 11, Annex 1 of the Council's Constitution), a petition containing at least 1,500 signatures will be debated at Full Council if the petition organiser makes a request for a debate in writing directly to the Head of Law and Governance at least three weeks prior to the Council meeting.
5. The petition organiser may address Council upon the petition for up to five minutes before the debate upon the petition at the meeting.

### **Actions for Council**

6. Possible actions available to Council include:
  - a. Noting the petition
  - b. Taking the action the petition requests<sup>1</sup>
  - c. Not taking the action the petition requests
  - d. Commissioning a further review
  - e. Where the matter falls to the Cabinet to make the final decision, decide whether to make recommendations to the Cabinet to inform that decision.

### **Constitution rules and procedure**

7. The Council's petitions scheme outlines the procedure for handling petitions and is set out in the Constitution. The scheme specifies that a petition containing at least 1,500 signatures will be debated at full Council if the petition organiser makes a request for a debate in writing directly to the Head of Law and Governance.
8. The Constitution states that the petition organiser may address Council upon the petition for up to five minutes before the debate upon the petition at the meeting.
9. The motion for debate is set out above in paragraph 2.
10. An alternative substantive motion/recommendation must be proposed if councillors wish to take any action other than adopting the action in the petition, not adopting

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<sup>1</sup> Where a petition is about something over which the Council has no direct control, it can only consider making representations on behalf of the community to the relevant body, or where possible it will work with its partners to respond to the petition.

the action in the petition, or deferring, referring or noting the issues raised by the petition.

11. If a Member wishes to put a substantive motion/recommendation on a petition they must let the Head of Law and Governance have that motion/recommendation by 10am on Friday 17 March 2023 (the working day before the Council meeting). These would then be published in the Council briefing note. Any amendments to these would have to be with Committee and Members' Services by 11am on Monday 20 March 2023 (the day of the meeting).

### **Financial implications**

12. 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**

13. The implications will depend on Council's recommendations, if any. Any recommendations will be considered in detail by the Cabinet, before returning to Council should this be necessary.

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| <b>Background Papers:</b> None |  |

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