

Croydon Council

For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 15 JULY 2015
AGENDA ITEM NO:	8
SUBJECT:	RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON 24 MARCH 2014
LEAD OFFICER:	Julie Belvir, Director of Democratic and Legal Services
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: This report is prepared in keeping with paragraph 3.22 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council is asked to note the response to the petition presented by Councillors at its last ordinary meeting as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report details Cabinet Member response to the petition presented to Council on 24th March 2014. All Members have the opportunity to ask questions on the responses to any of the petitions.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution allows Councillors to present petitions to meetings of the Full Council.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires a response to that petition to be presented at this meeting.
- 3.3 A period of up to ten minutes is permitted for questions on the response to the petition.

4. RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

- 4.1 Petitions presented to the Council meeting on 27 January 2014, and the relevant Cabinet Member response, as follows:

4.2 A petition presented by **Councillor Paul Scott** on behalf of residents: South Norwood Hill Children's Centre

The Cypress school governors have decided to close the South Norwood Hill Children's Centre, which is based on their site, but was purpose built.

This petition is calling on the school, and the local authority, to reconsider this decision, and to fight to continue running all the services currently provided at the centre, at no cost to families who use those services.

Response from Councillor Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning

The Children's Centre Performance Board met on 18th November and considered a proposal from Cypress Primary School Governors to de-designate South Norwood Children's Centre. The paper prepared for the Board outlined the reasons for this proposal including the difficulties of meeting Ofsted requirements that would risk the future of the centre. The governors remain committed to continuing services where possible, including exploring the option of developing early years provision.

The Board agreed that two neighbouring children's centres (Kensington and Crosfield) would be able to ensure that families living in the areas would be able to access services needed. In the autumn outreach provision for South Norwood will be delivered at Samuel Coleridge Taylor Centre.

The Board agreed that this would be an effective way of ensuring that those families, particularly those requiring additional services, would be supported by children's centre services.

The council has a duty to ensure the sufficiency of children's centre services, particularly for the most disadvantaged communities. The area served by South Norwood Children's Centres has a population with low levels of disadvantage and the Board agreed that the proposal to de-designate the centre with neighbouring centres providing support for more vulnerable families would meet the needs of the local community. This approach is used across the council with each collaboration covering the area it seeks to serve, ensuring more vulnerable groups are offered more targeted support. This approach is in line with requirement of the council's statutory duties.

With the diminishing funding of children's centres it is not possible to offer universal drop-in and general groups for parents across the whole population. Therefore the option agreed provides the best use of scarce resources across the borough whilst meeting our statutory requirements.

"We have consulted with families and local communities on how best to meet the needs of families with very young children. The development of collaborations of fewer children's centres working together to support local communities and families has not only received members support but many parents. We have to make sure we use the limited budget to reach those most in need and help their children be ready for school. The proposals that two neighbouring centres offer support to families living in South Norwood in addition to the offer from Cypress Primary School to continue services where possible seems a reasonable way forward although I can see the

some local families are disappointed that the previous range of groups and drop-in at the centre are no longer available."

A petition presented by **Councillor Manju Shahul-Hameed** or behalf of residents, "We, the residents of Handcroft Road estate and surrounding area would like more police presence and CCTV cameras in the estate to reduce the burglary and anti social behaviour. We would also like to have a police station in London Road, West Croydon to tackle the increase in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Response from Councillor Stuart Collins, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon

I am writing in response to your petition dated 24th March 2014 regarding a number of issues that the petitioners state are affecting the Handcroft Road Estate area, namely:

- Antisocial Behaviour
- Burglary
- The loss of the Police Office
- The Provision of CCTV

In regard to that part of the petition that relates to antisocial behaviour (ASB) the Council's Housing ASB Team has investigated this matter. In order for them to progress this aspect of the complaint properly they will require details of specific events and a willingness from those petitioners and other residents affected to provide evidence and supporting statements, in order that they can effect some measure of preventative, or where appropriate, punitive, response to the alleged offence and offenders. In addition, ASB officers will support residents who feel able to provide this information or work with them to identify the best way to obtain this information.

It would then make sense for residents to contact Angela Bradford, the Council's Housing Officer for the estate, with any further issues and the point of any future contact. Resident's contact details should of course be included in any correspondence.

With regard to the loss of the Police Office that served the estate as I am sure you will be aware the Council has no jurisdiction in this regard, but rest assured I have passed your concerns on to the Borough Commander responsible for policing in the borough and have asked that he addresses these concerns. I am advised however by the Housing ASB Team that the Broad Green Safer Neighbourhood Police Team are still very active in your ward and are able to respond to reports of antisocial behavior and other criminal activity and would include any concerns that residents may have regarding burglary, either in a preventative aspect or dealing with burglaries where they have occurred.. This can be done by accessing the MPS website and locating the page for Broad Green as follows:

http://content.met.police.uk/Page/TeamFinder?scope_id=1257246763788

In respect of your concerns regarding the provision of CCTV there is insufficient detail to provide a specific response but I am able to provide general feedback in this regard.

Firstly there is currently no plan to update any fixed provision there may be already in situ; however we do have access to an inventory of deployable cameras that can be quickly located where the lighting infrastructure allows, to enable investigating officers to focus on a particular area of the estate and if necessary specific individuals with the appropriate legal authorisations.

As you might imagine these are finite resources and are deployed based primarily on need. The need is established by the following:

- Crime/Antisocial Behaviour Data
- Resident Responses
- Evidence and impact statements from affected individuals

Once this information is available then we will make the appropriate assessments and deploy based on need and priority.

CONTACT OFFICER: Solomon Agutu, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny, x62920.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: