

Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 5 November 2015

Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

Item number	6.1
Report number	
Wards	All/Leith Walk

Links

Coalition pledges	
Council outcomes	CO23 & CO26
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Executive Summary

Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

Summary

The Committee is asked to consider two petitions at this meeting.

Valid petitions -

Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy

A valid petition entitled 'Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy' has been received. The petition received 276 signatures.

Details of the petition are set out in appendix one.

Save the Lorne Street Community

A valid petition entitled 'Save the Lorne Street Community' has been received. The petition received 1098 signatures.

Details of the petition are set out in appendix one.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the petitions:

- 1.1 'Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy' as set out in 6.1(a) of Appendix one.
- 1.2 Save the Lorne Street Community as set out in 6.1(b) of Appendix one.

Measures of success

There are no immediate measures of success applicable to this report.

Financial impact

There is no financial impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

Equalities impact

There is no equalities impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

Sustainability impact

There is no sustainability impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

Consultation and engagement

There are no consultation or engagement requirements at this part of the process.

Background reading / external references

[Petitions webpages](#)

[Council Webcasting](#)

Links

Coalition pledges

Council outcomes CO23 Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
CO26 The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives

Single Outcome Agreement

Appendices Appendix one: Petitions for Consideration

Appendix 1 - Petitions for Consideration

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
6.1(a)	19 August 2015	<p><u>Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy</u></p> <p>The Children and Families department have introduced a policy effective from the August 2015 term where in some Edinburgh Primary Schools any places not filled up by the current P1 catchment intake will NOT be offered to the children on the waiting list as per previous years.</p> <p>These 'reserve' places, 1 per teacher, will instead be reserved for the entire school year for possible incoming catchment children. This policy also prevents children with older siblings already at the school from securing a place at the school if there are only 'reserve places' available.</p> <p>This policy did not go through a consultation briefing session allowing parents, political groups or the general public a chance to object or raise concerns.</p> <p>We are looking for this policy to be reversed for the current 2015/2016 School year and due consideration to be applied and a consultation period before a decision is made on the policy.</p>	Citywide	276 signatures

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
6.1(b)	19 October 2015	<p><u>Save the Lorne Street Community</u></p> <p>Over 200 tenants in Lorne Street, Leith are facing eviction by the Agnes Hunter Trust, a charitable trust that owns over 100 flats in Lorne Street. The trust was established in 1954 by Miss Agnes Hunter. The properties were built by her father in the 1870ties and since then have been let by the Hunter family to the people of Leith. Miss Hunter herself lived for many years in Leith until she died in 1954. The properties and the income received from its tenants have always built the core of the charity. The trust informed all tenants on 11 June 2015 that it decided to dispose all of its properties within 3-4 years to re-invest the income from the sale of the properties and with a view to increasing the amount available for distribution to charities. The tenants with the support from MP Deidre Brock, MSP Malcolm Chisholm, Councillors Nick Gardner, Angela Blacklock and Cammy Day asked the trustees to put the evictions on hold for 12 months in order to set up a housing co-op with the support of the council but that request was denied and only a 4 months period was granted which will only be extended if we can agree with the landlord on a valuation basis for the property portfolio by then.</p> <p>We kindly ask that the City of Edinburgh Council does everything possible within its powers, including financial support, to support the tenants to save the community and to set up a housing co-op.</p>	Leith Walk	1098 signatures