
REJECTED PETITION – STOP THE ATTACKS ON BENEFITS

To: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 11 March 2014**

Main Portfolio Area: **Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Corporate Regulatory and Strategic Economic Development Services**

By: **Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Thanet Ward**

Summary: **To outline a petition that has been rejected by the Monitoring Officer.**

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The Council's petition scheme states that:

"Petitions submitted to the Council must include:

"A clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition. It should state what action the petitioner wishes the Council to take."

1.2 When the Petition Scheme was reviewed in light of the Localism Act 2011, a new clause was introduced to require the Council's Monitoring Officer to report to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel when a petition was rejected.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 The Council received an petition on the 27 January 2014 from a member of the public representing Thanet Benefit Justice Campaign entitled:

"PETITION: Stop the attacks on benefits:

Cuts in benefits are an unjust attack on the poor. Cuts concentrated on Housing Benefit are already breaking up families and communities and support networks.

They will mean poverty, debt and evictions.

We oppose all cuts in benefits and tax credits. We did not cause the banking and economic crisis and will not be scapegoated to pay for it.

We reject false divisions and stigmatisation of people who are low-paid or unpaid.

We oppose all evictions and legal action against those hit by benefit cuts and support all actions taken in defence".

2.2 The petitioner was advised that the petition had been rejected in accordance with the Council's petition scheme because it did not state what action the petitioner wished the Council to take.

3.0 Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial and VAT

3.1.1 None

3.2 Legal

3.2.1 None

3.3 Corporate

3.3.1 The Council must abide by its constitution, of which the petition scheme is an integral part.

3.4 Equity and Equalities

3.4.1 None

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 This report is for information only.

Contact Officer:	Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager
Reporting to:	Sue McGonigal, Chief Executive

Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	N/A
Legal	Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager