

Subject:	Hertford Infant School Petition for Debate		
Date of Meeting:	2 November 2017		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 The e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,570 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 13th November 2017.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition****Hertford Infant School Consultation**

"We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to abandon the proposal to halve the admission numbers for Hertford Infant School."

Lead Petitioner – Jo Wilding

Additional Information

1. The Infant and Junior Schools are the heart of our community and play an important role in many of the improvements to our neighbourhood in recent years.
2. Reducing the intake in the infant school will feed through to the junior school and mean significant cuts to the budgets of these schools in an

area which is already recognised as one of the most deprived in the city, to the disadvantage of children who are already underprivileged.

3. While we acknowledge that there may for (at the moment) a dip in the child population in Brighton as a whole, we do not believe this is the case in Hollingdean.
4. A number of new houses are being built or planned in our neighbourhood, including two- and three-bedroom council houses which will most likely be allocated to families with children, maintaining the child population in this area.
5. We are concerned that no alternatives appear to be under consideration, such as reducing the intake of one of the four-class entry schools to three, instead of halving Hertford's entry and forcing local children out of their closest school.
6. Not all children or families would be comfortable with a four-class entry school, yet many families would be left with no choice. The two Hertford schools offer great green space, dedicated provision for special needs and a small enough school that all adults and all children know one another – but again some children would be forced out into much bigger schools.
7. We request that an Equalities Impact Assessment be carried out before any more consideration is given to reducing the size of Hertford's intake.
8. We request that the entry capacity of both Hertford Infant and Hertford Junior School remain at sixty per year.”

3.2 The options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors for a period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on

those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in the matter, before calling on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the debate;

- (iii) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
- (iv) After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, the Mayor will then formally put:
 - (v) (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

