

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 22 April 2010
Report of: Director of Strategy & Governance
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Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: Various

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

- 1.1 To receive the following petitions presented at Council, any petitions presented directly to the Cabinet Meeting or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.
- 203. (i)** To receive the following petition presented at Council on 10 December 2009 by Councillor Taylor, referred to the Community Safety Forum on 8 March 2010 (see Appendix 1) and signed by 366 people:

"To Brighton and Hove City Council:

EDO MBM, based in Moulsecoomb, is a weapons manufacturer owned by the American multi-national ITT. They make weapon components for the Paveway guided bomb programme, which was the most used aerial weapon in the attack on Iraq. They also own patents of the Zero Retention Force Arming Unit and the Ejector Release Unit ERU 151, both essential components for the F16 aircraft's VER-2 bomb rack, used by the Israeli Air Force against civilians in Gaza.

Since 2004 there has been a growing campaign against EDO MBM in Brighton, Campaigners have used diverse tactics to highlight this murderous business in our city. There have been blockades, rooftop occupations, street theatre and hundreds of noisy demos outside the factory. Thousands of people have also taken to the streets against them during nationally advertised events

During the massacre in Gaza this year, the Green Party attempted to table a motion condemning the activities of EDO MBM/ITT at the full Council meeting. The motion was refused a hearing by the City Council convenor. A leaked document from the Green Party reveals that the reason given was that "the issue is not directly related to Brighton and has no bearing on the well being of our city." On the evening of this refusal six people broke into the EDO factory in solidarity with the people of Gaza, who were simultaneously being bombed with the aid of Brighton manufactured EDO components. In an

attempt to “decommission” the weapons they caused up to £300,000 worth of damage to the machinery aiding this atrocity.

We the undersigned residents of Brighton & Hove, believe that the refusal to hear the original motion was wrong and disagree strongly with the notion that whilst being manufactured and sold in Brighton is of no concern or relevance to the City’s citizens. We urge you to accept the tabling of this new motion and to condemn the activities of EDO and their complicity in war crimes.”

- 203. (ii)** To receive the following e-Petition submitted via the council’s website and signed by 15 people, to be combined with a paper petition presented directly to the Cabinet:

We the undersigned residents of north Brighton (e.g. Westdene, Withdean, Patcham, and Dyke Rd area) would like the council to build better play facilities for older children including a skateboarding area nearer to our homes.

- 203. (iii)** To receive the following petition presented directly to the Cabinet:

Re cycle lane set up on the top end of The Drive: We, the undersigned, do urgently request the council to investigate the above situation having regard to the dangers to which pedestrians, motorists and cyclists are exposed.

- 203. (iv)** To receive the following petition presented directly to the Cabinet:

Re the cycle lane set up from Grand Avenue to the top end of The Drive: We, the undersigned, do urgently request the council to investigate the above situation having regard to the dangers to which pedestrians, motorists and cyclists are exposed.