

**Subject:** Public Involvement - Petitions  
**Date of Meeting:** 14 June 2012  
**Report of:** Strategic Director, Resources  
**Contact Officer:** Name: Mark Wall Tel: 29-1006  
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Wards Affected:** Various

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

1.1 To receive any petitions presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.2 That the Committee considers the petition(s) listed in paragraph 3 of the report and determines whether to:

- (i) note the petition;
- (ii) write to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views; or
- (iii) where it is considered more appropriate, call for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:
  - taking the action requested in the petition
  - considering the petition at a council meeting
  - holding an inquiry into the matter
  - undertaking research into the matter
  - holding a public meeting
  - holding a consultation
  - holding a meeting with petitioners
  - referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - calling a referendum

**3. PETITIONS**

**3. (i) Save the 52 Bus Service**

To receive the following e-Petition submitted by Mr Redfern and signed by x people, together with a paper petition to be submitted on the day of the meeting:

“We the undersigned petition the council to reconsider its proposals to cut the direct 52 bus service link to the city centre and the station. (This also applies to Woodingdean.) We further request the council to re-examine current passenger numbers on this route as, especially (but not exclusively) since the establishment of the Ovingdean Hall International College and Study Centre, whose students use the service extensively, the current subsidy level may no longer be appropriate.

The council proposes to cut back the very well-used 52 bus service which links Woodingdean and Ovingdean directly to the city centre and the train station.

Passengers would instead be forced to change buses, either at the A259 coast road or the Marina. This would severely disadvantage elderly, vulnerable and disabled residents of both areas, increasing social isolation. The service also provides a direct link for students attending Cardinal Newman Catholic College. And a large number of students at Ovingdean Hall College International School would also be hugely disadvantaged.

The number 52 service appears to have been singled out: such proposals would mean this would become the city's only outlying area without a direct link to the city centre. It would also mean a financial disadvantage for those without concessionary passes, as a single fare would no longer be applicable. Woodingdean residents, already subject to a frequency cutback of the number 22 service, also regularly use this service as for them, too, it provides a direct link to the city centre using an alternative route.

Those who do have alternative transport means will simply be forced to use their cars, bringing more congestion to the city at a time when the council has an aspiration to be the UK's "greenest".

We appreciate that this is a council-subsidised service (this needs to be reassessed), and are glad to hear the council is in urgent discussions with Brighton Buswatch ( [brightonbuswatch@gmail.com](mailto:brightonbuswatch@gmail.com) ).

However, we request that the policy and resources committee on 14 June, which is due to discuss this issue, takes this petition and comments into consideration in its deliberations.”

Neil Redfern