

County Council – 19 May 2016

Consideration of the Petition Re: Save Lichfield Library

Recommendations

That, given the number of signatures has triggered the Council's Petition Scheme, the Council acknowledges and debates the "Save Lichfield Library" petition.

Background

The County Council has received the following petition:

"We the people of Lichfield are calling for an open and democratic public consultation on the future of Lichfield Library before any decisions are made on the future of The Friary building".

The petition consists of a paper petition and an e-petition with a total number of valid signatures of 5,562. Under the Council's Petition Scheme any petition that exceeds 5,000 valid signatures automatically triggers a debate at the next available Council meeting. To be a valid petition it must clearly state the issue and set out individual signatures and addresses. To ensure the debate is prompted by those that are directly affected by the service or pay Council Tax in Staffordshire then only those people who live or work within Staffordshire are counted as part of the total for the purposes of the scheme.

Structure of the Debate

The structure of the debate is set out in the Council's Procedural Standing Orders. A lead petitioner will be entitled to speak at the start of the debate setting out the background to the petition and what those signing the petition ask of the Council in terms of action in response to the issue. The petitioner will have five minutes to present the petition.

After this Council will have the opportunity to debate the issue. 15 minutes is set aside for the debate although this may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman. At the conclusion of the debate Council should agree what action it wishes to take in response to the petition.

Background Documents:

Petition: "Save Lichfield Library"