



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All Wards

COUNCIL

21st January 2016

**PETITIONS FOR DEBATE BY FULL COUNCIL – REJECT THE PROPOSAL TO
CLOSE THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION AND SELL THE BUILDING**

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

A petition has been received which asks the City Council to reject the proposal to close the Central Fire Station and sell the building.

The Council's Petitions' Scheme (adopted in September 2014) states that any petition that receives 1,500 or more validated signatures must be subject to a debate at Full Council. This petition meets these requirements.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is recommended to consider the petition and make any recommendations in accordance with the Petitions' Scheme.

3. REPORT

The petition received from the Fire Brigades Union has 12,017 signatures and is in the following terms:

“Please sign this petition to reject the proposal to close Central Fire Station and sell the building: Say no to cuts which affect frontline services and demand that elected members of the Combined Fire Authority and City Mayor Peter Soulsby reject all of these proposals and insist Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service explore alternative ways to save money.”

The lead petitioners have been invited to speak on their petition for five minutes to be followed by a Councillor debate for a maximum of 15 minutes.

Following the debate, as the subject of the petition is something over which the Council has no direct control; the Council can consider making representations on behalf of the community to the relevant body, which in this instance is the Combined Fire Authority.

Following the Council meeting the petition organisers will receive written confirmation of the outcome.

Background

This petition has arisen as a result of proposals which the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service have put out for consultation on the future configuration of services covering both the City and County areas.

The Council has no formal role in terms of the management of the Fire Service and there is, therefore, no specific officer advice which accompanies this report. The Council does however have Member level representation on the Combined Fire Authority and the debate on this petition could inform the views of relevant members in any future discussions at the Combined Fire Authority on matters raised by the petition. Further, Members may wish to comment on the issues raised by the petition as it may be felt that the communities they serve are affected by the proposals.

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Alison Greenhill, Chief Finance Officer, 374001

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Kamal Adatia, City Barrister and Head of Standards, 371401

4.3 Climate Change

The recommendations in this report will have no implications for Leicester City Council's own operational carbon footprint as this does not fall within our own property portfolio/services. It should be noted however that the closure of the Central Fire Station could result in a number of implications for city wide emissions; emergency vehicles may have to travel further to reach emergencies in the vicinity of the existing station, implications may arise through any future development on the site. If the site is to be developed on in the future, it is ideally situated to make a connection to the city's district heating network.

Louise Buckley, Senior Environmental Consultant, 372293

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph References Within the Report
Equal Opportunities	N	
Policy	N	
Sustainable and Environmental	N	
Crime and Disorder	N	
Human Rights Act	N	
Elderly/People on Low Income	N	
Corporate Parenting	N	
Health Inequalities Impact	N	

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None

7. CONSULTATIONS

None.

8. REPORT AUTHOR

Matthew Reeves
Senior Democratic Support Officer.