

## COUNCIL

11 JULY 2023

### REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### A.2 **PETITION TO COUNCIL: BEACH HUT LEASE CHANGES**

(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

In accordance with the Council's approved scheme for dealing with petitions, I formally report the receipt of an e-petition submitted by Dale Westall, as lead petitioner, on 30 June 2023. The petition is validly signed by 164 persons and states:-

*"We the undersigned petition the Council to have the Cabinet of the Council reconsider its decision that all Beach Hut licenses be changed to leases and further, we petition the Cabinet of the Council that Beach Hut Association members be shown the cost, length, and terms of the leases prior to them being put in place.*

*No evidence has been provided to substantiate claims of problems incurred by lack of security of tenure due to existing licensing system.*

*Insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate improved security of tenure. A 7-year lease is insufficient improvement and leases of over 7 years will attract Land Registry fees making hut ownership prohibitive and reduce saleability of huts.*

*What will the additional benefits of purchasing said lease be that have not been enjoyed over decades without any problems under the existing system?*

*Unnecessary bureaucracy which will inevitably incur extensive cost for administrative staff at Council.*

*Inadequate information has been given regarding certainty of lease renewal upon expiry and cost involved.*

*Despite 69.1% of hut owners disagreed/strongly disagreed to the proposal, it was still passed."*

In accordance with the Council's approved scheme for dealing with petitions, this matter will now be investigated and a report will be prepared and presented to the Cabinet on the basis that it contains between 30 and 500 signatures and relates to a matter that is an Executive function under the law.

Members will be aware that the next practicable ordinary meeting of the Cabinet is on 6 October 2023.

At that meeting, and in accordance with the Council's approved scheme, Dale Westall, the lead petitioner, will be invited to address the Cabinet, explain the petition and outline the action that the petitioners would like the Council to take. Members will then discuss the petition and decide what action, if any, should be taken. Cabinet's decision will be confirmed in writing to Mr. Westall and the decision will be published on the Council's website via the Minutes of that meeting.

**RECOMMENDED - That the receipt of the Petition and the contents of the report be noted.**

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**11 JULY 2023**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS LIST FOR  
REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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E-Petition submitted by Dale Westall to the Council on 30 June 2023.