

COUNCIL – 27 JUNE 2013

AGENDA ITEM 5 – MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, two petitions have been submitted for consideration at the Council meeting, as follows:

- (1) The first petition containing 2,920 signatures has been submitted by Juliet Edgar on behalf of 'Stand Up in Bootle' and residents of Sefton.

The Petition states:

"We:

- (1) demand that Sefton Council passes a resolution to call on the Coalition Government to drop the 'Bedroom Tax';
- (2) demand that Sefton Council passes a resolution to refuse to implement the 'Bedroom Tax' within the Sefton Council Benefit Department; and
- (3) also demand that Sefton Council exerts pressure on the 23 housing associations within its area, to adopt a policy of 'No Evictions' for 'Bedroom Tax' arrears."

- (2) The second petition containing 3,581 signatures has been submitted by Maria Bennett on behalf of Formby Residents Action Group Opposition From Formby (FRAGOFF)

Petition Summary and Background:

Sefton's local plan, formulated over the last 5 years continues to show little regard for the green belt. Our Council will, in the upcoming months, embark on a Public Consultation Process, using Household population figures that they themselves concede are not an accurate reflection of current housing need. Most up to date Government figures show the Council's projections to be at least 20% too high. We believe this anomaly is so significant that it undermines the validity of the Consultation exercise

The action petitioned for is:

"We the undersigned urge the Council, officers, elected members and Leader to amend the 'Preferred Option' plan to reflect the most recent and up to date Government statistics which clearly show a significant reduction in housing need, sheds doubt on the necessity for large edge of town industrial parks, which in the absence of sufficient demand, threatens local traders, damaging town centres."

The procedure for the consideration of public petitions at Council meetings, as set out in Paragraph 267 of Chapter 12 in the Council Constitution is as follows:

If a petition contains more than 2,750 signatures it will be debated by the full Council. The petition organiser will be given five Minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 Minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or refer the matter to another decision-making body of the Council. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of the decision.