

# Report to Council

<b>Report Title</b>	Debate on a Petition containing over 1500 verified signatures – residents against housing development on green belt land at Blackshots playing fields.
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Wednesday, 29 January 2025
<b>Report Author</b>	Jenny Shade
<b>Corporate Director</b>	Executive Director Corporate Services/Monitoring Officer
<b>Lead Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Councillor Lynn Worrall
<b>Wards Affected</b>	Little Thurrock Blackshots;
<b>Identify exempt information and exemption category</b>	Choose an item. N/A
<b>Appendices (if any)</b>	None

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At Council on 30 October 2024 a petition was submitted by Ms Joy Redsell, a resident, relating to residents against the use of green belt being used on part of Blackshots playing fields. The petition exceeded the threshold of 1500 verified signatures and in accordance with Chapter 1, Part 2, Article 3 of the Constitution is qualified to be debated by Full Council.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **For the reasons set out in this report, Full Council are recommended to consider and decide how to respond to the petition.**

## 3. Commissioner's Comments

- 3.1 N/A

## 4. Proposals – the rationale and evidence for the recommendations

### History and Details of Petition

- 4.1 A petition was submitted on 30 October 2024 to Council by Ms Joy Redsell, a resident of Thurrock.
- 4.2 The following statement that accompanies the petition details the actions the petitioners wish the Council to take:

**Residents are against the use of green belt being used on part of Blackshots playing fields. The overwhelming loss of open space, loss of views and also overlooking to certain properties. It was given to the residents of Thurrock to enjoy the open spaces, also for sporting activities.**

- 4.3 The petition has been verified. 1784 signatures were inspected to reach the required 1500 threshold. A detailed breakdown is provided below:

Number of Signatures checked	<b>1784</b>
Number of Valid Signatures	<b>1501</b>
Number of Invalid Signatures	<b>283</b>

- 4.4 Where a petition in respect of any matter has a number of signatories equal to or greater than the 1500 verified signatures threshold set out in paragraph 7.1 of the Council's Petition Scheme it may be debated by the Council.
- 4.5 Due to reaching the required number of valid signatures, the Mayor has agreed that the petition may be debated at Full Council.

#### Procedure for Dealing with the Petition at the Meeting

- 4.6 Under the Council's petition scheme, the petition organiser will be given a period of up to five minutes to speak to the subject matter of the petition at the meeting.
- 4.7 In accordance with the rules of Full Council debate (Paragraph 7.3, Chapter 1, Part 2 – Article 3) the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- 4.8 In accordance with paragraph 7.4, Chapter 1, Part 2 (Article 3) of the Constitution:
- “the Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this 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 to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee”.

## **5 Alternative Options Considered**

- 5.1 None.

## **6. Consultation**

The petition will be considered at Full Council.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 The financial implications will depend on the nature of the decisions made by Council, and therefore at this time cannot be quantified. Once a decision, or decisions, are made then the financial impact will be assessed.

Implications Verified by: Shankar Siva Ananthan; Head of Financial Management

Date: 29 November 2024

## **8. Risks**

- 8.1 This petition has been accepted for debate at Full Council in accordance with paragraph 7.1 of Part 1, Chapter 2, Article 3 of the Constitution.

- 8.2 The Risks will depend on the nature of the decisions made by Council, and therefore at this time cannot be quantified. Once a decision, or decisions, are made then the Risks can be assessed, and any mitigations can be put in place if necessary.

Implications Verified by: Kelly McMillan, Chief Risk Advisor

Date: 11 December 2024

## **9. Legal and Governance Implications**

- 9.1 There are no particular legal implications arising from this report. The Council's petition scheme is set out in the Constitution. This petition has been accepted for debate at Full Council in accordance with paragraph 7.1 of Part 1, Chapter 2, Article 3 of the Constitution.

- 9.2 Paragraph 7.4 of the same section of the Constitution sets out that the Council will decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting. The Council may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee

Implications Verified by: Helen Nicol, Assistant Director Legal & Governance

Date: 11 December 2024

## **10. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)**

- 10.1 There are no diversity or equality implications.

Implications Verified by: Natalie Smith

Date: 26 November 2024

## **11. Other Relevant Implications**

- 11.1 None

## **12. Background Documents**

12. None

## Relevance Check

### Budget Reduction/Service Area:

**Service Lead**

**Date:**

In what ways does this Budget reduction have an impact on an outward facing service? How will the service feel different to your customers or potential customers?

N/A

If not, how does it impact on staff e.g. redundancies, pay grades, working conditions? Why are you confident that these staff changes will not affect the service that you provide?

N/A

Is a Customer Impact Assessment needed? No