

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 8 December 2015

## Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy - referral from the Petitions Committee

<b>Item number</b>	7.3
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Wards</b>	City Wide

### Executive summary

---

The Petitions Committee on 5 November 2015 considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive outlining the petition 'Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy'. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Education, Children and Families Committee for consideration.

### Links

---

<b>Coalition pledges</b>	See attached report
<b>Council outcomes</b>	See attached report
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	See attached report
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1 – Petitions for Consideration Overview Report

## Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy

### Terms of referral

---

- 1.1 On 5 November 2015 the Petitions Committee considered a report outlining the petition 'Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy'.
- 1.2 The Petitions Committee agreed:
  - 1.2.1 To refer the petition 'Reverse the 'Reserve places' to the Education, Children and Families Committee on 8 December 2015 for consideration.
  - 1.2.2 To note that the Convener of the Petitions Committee would contact the Convener of the Member Officer Working Group 'Schools Admission /Appeals' to highlight the petition received and suggest that the principal petitioner be invited to a future meeting of the group.

### For Decision/Action

---

- 2.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
  - 2.1.1 Consider the content of the petition included within the attached report by the Deputy Chief Executive.

### Background reading / external references

---

The Petitions Committee 5 November 2015

### Carol Campbell

Head of Legal and Risk

Contact: Stuart McLean, Committee Services

Email: [stuart.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 569 4106

# Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 5 November 2015

## Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

**Item number**

**Report number**

**Wards**

All/Leith Walk

### Links

---

**Coalition pledges**

**Council outcomes**

[CO23 & CO26](#)

**Single Outcome Agreement**

**Alastair D Maclean**

Deputy Chief Executive

Contact: Stuart McLean, Committee Clerk

E-mail: [petitions@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:petitions@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 4106



# Executive Summary

## Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

### Summary

---

The Committee is asked to consider two petitions at this meeting.

Valid petitions -

#### **Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy**

**A valid petition entitled 'Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy' has been received. The petition received 276 signatures.**

**Details of the petition are set out in appendix one.**

#### **Save the Lorne Street Community**

A valid petition entitled 'Save the Lorne Street Community' has been received. The petition received 1098 signatures.

Details of the petition are set out in appendix one.

### Recommendations

---

The Committee is asked to consider the petitions:

- 1.1 **'Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy' as set out in 6.1(a) of Appendix one.**
- 1.2 Save the Lorne Street Community as set out in 6.1(b) of Appendix one.

### Measures of success

---

There are no immediate measures of success applicable to this report.

### Financial impact

---

There is no financial impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

### Equalities impact

---

There is no equalities impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

### Sustainability impact

---

There is no sustainability impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

### Consultation and engagement

---

There are no consultation or engagement requirements at this part of the process.

## Background reading / external references

---

[Petitions webpages](#)

[Council Webcasting](#)

## Links

---

### Coalition pledges

**Council outcomes** CO23 Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community  
CO26 The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives

### Single Outcome Agreement

**Appendices** Appendix one: Petitions for Consideration

# Appendix 1 - Petitions for Consideration

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
6.1(a)	19 August 2015	<p><b><u>Reverse the 'Reserve places' for incoming catchment children in Primary 1 policy</u></b></p> <p>The Children and Families department have introduced a policy effective from the August 2015 term where in some Edinburgh Primary Schools any places not filled up by the current P1 catchment intake will NOT be offered to the children on the waiting list as per previous years. These 'reserve' places, 1 per teacher, will instead be reserved for the entire school year for possible incoming catchment children. This policy also prevents children with older siblings already at the school from securing a place at the school if there are only 'reserve places' available. This policy did not go through a consultation briefing session allowing parents, political groups or the general public a chance to object or raise concerns. We are looking for this policy to be reversed for the current 2015/2016 School year and due consideration to be applied and a consultation period before a decision is made on the policy.</p>	Citywide	276 signatures

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
6.1(b)	19 October 2015	<p><b><u>Save the Lorne Street Community</u></b></p> <p>Over 200 tenants in Lorne Street, Leith are facing eviction by the Agnes Hunter Trust, a charitable trust that owns over 100 flats in Lorne Street. The trust was established in 1954 by Miss Agnes Hunter. The properties were built by her father in the 1870ties and since then have been let by the Hunter family to the people of Leith. Miss Hunter herself lived for many years in Leith until she died in 1954. The properties and the income received from its tenants have always built the core of the charity. The trust informed all tenants on 11 June 2015 that it decided to dispose all of its properties within 3-4 years to re-invest the income from the sale of the properties and with a view to increasing the amount available for distribution to charities. The tenants with the support from MP Deidre Brock, MSP Malcolm Chisholm, Councillors Nick Gardner, Angela Blacklock and Cammy Day asked the trustees to put the evictions on hold for 12 months in order to set up a housing co-op with the support of the council but that request was denied and only a 4 months period was granted which will only be extended if we can agree with the landlord on a valuation basis for the property portfolio by then.</p> <p>We kindly ask that the City of Edinburgh Council does everything possible within its powers, including financial support, to support the tenants to save the community and to set up a housing co-op.</p>	Leith Walk	1098 signatures