

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

**TO: OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**- 20<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

**FROM: COUNCIL – 7 July 2011**

### **PETITION REFERRED TO OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **– DoH £2,600,000 Funding**

1. At the meeting of Council held on 7 July 2011, the Council agreed to receive a Petition of 2,487 signatures, submitted by Angela Dias, on behalf of petitioners and recited as the having following terms:

*“We who have signed the accompanying petitions regarding this matter, find Harrow Council’s actions regarding the use of the allocated funding of £2,100,000 (million pounds) from the DoH for the purpose of alleviating pressures on Adult Social Care to be totally unacceptable and would demand that the funding is used for its intended purpose.”*

The Petition, upon examination was found to consist of 3 different types of Petition subject:

1. No Petition terms identified – **61 signatures**
2. A petition term that intended to call-in the recommendation of Cabinet at its first publishing and therefore did not reflect the petition terms read out  
– **197 signatures**
3. The third petition, consisting of the majority of signatures, contained the term “Harrow Council has been awarded an additional sum of £2,100,000 from the Department of Health, in recognition of the fact that the Social Care Funding is not enough for today’s needs. However, Harrow Council have decided to take that money out of the Social Care pot and put it into a fund which is earmarked for other needs, including payment of council staff redundancies. If you feel as we do, that this is unacceptable, please sign” - **1,232 signatures**

The Petition has been subject to the validation process based on Point (3) above and meets the threshold of signatures (1,000 signatures live, work or study in Harrow) needed to engender an Overview & Scrutiny Committee debate.

At Item 7 of the Council's Petitions Scheme if a petition contains at least 1,000 signatures of people who live, work or study in the Borough, the relevant senior officer will be called to give evidence in public at a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee may also decide to call a relevant Councillor or invite relevant officers from one or more partner agencies to attend the meeting. Committee members will ask the questions at this meeting, but the petition organiser will be able to suggest questions to the Chair of the Committee up to three working days before the meeting.

With regard to the Petition received the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must first consider whether the intention of the petition terms recorded, suitably reflect those that were read out at Council and that the Petition is therefore validly submitted for consideration and debate.

The Senior Officer relevant to the Petition would be the Corporate Director of Finance. The relevant Councillor would be the Leader (Councillor Bill Stephenson) Both will attend the Committee meeting.

The Head Petitioner (Angela Dias) has also been invited to submit any questions she would wish asked to the Chairman for consideration, in accordance with the Petition Scheme criteria.

Following discussion the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may choose to consider what actions it would wish to recommend concerning the receipt and its consideration of the Petition.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### Background documents:

Petition submitted to the Council meeting – 7 July 2011.

### **Contact:**

Pauline Ferris  
Democratic & Electoral Services Manager  
Direct Dial: 020 8424 1269  
email: pauline.ferris@harrow.gov.uk