

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 27 January 2016	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Petition from Southwark Defend Council Housing	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet consider a petition from Southwark Defend Council Housing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A petition containing 500 signatures or more maybe presented to the cabinet. A petition can be submitted by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in Southwark. Petitions must relate to matters which the council has powers or duties or which affects Southwark.
3. At the meeting, the spokesperson for the petition will be invited to speak up to five minutes on the subject matter. The cabinet will debate the petition for a period of up to 15 minutes and may decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. A petition containing 1,442 signatures has been received from Southwark Defend Council Housing. A deputation request has also been submitted to council assembly on 26 January 2016 from this group on the same issue. The group have stated that if their deputation is heard by council assembly they will forego presenting this petition to cabinet.
5. The petition states:

“Don’t demolish our council estates, keep council housing – keep council rents.

Southwark Council is demolishing council homes at an astonishing rate and it has designated a large part of the borough as an “estate renewal zone” without telling residents. This will make it easier to demolish many more estates as part of Boris Johnson’s plan for gentrifying London. The council is promising to build 11,000 new council homes over 30 years – but its plans assume the new homes will be built on existing estates which will be “redeveloped”. We demand the council’s first choice is to refurbish our homes only demolishing if there is really no alternative. Any future demolition plans must provide “like-for-like” replacement of council homes at council rents and secure tenancies not so-called “affordable” homes at higher rents and worse tenancies.”

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet procedure rule 2.13 on petitions (page 166 of the constitution):	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s57724/10%20Cabinet%20procedure%20rules%20July%202015.pdf		

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	18 January 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		18 January 2016