



Report to Council

26 JANUARY 2011

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR RESIDENTS
SERVICES**

Councillor Greg Smith

PETITIONS: IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE

The Council has received a petition opposing the Council's proposal to consider disposing of the Irish Cultural Centre and requests it to reconsider the future of this building and its people.

WARDS

**Hammersmith
Broadway**

CONTRIBUTORS

Petitions Officer
ADLDS

RECOMMENDATION:

That officers undertake research into the matter and refer their findings to Cabinet on 7 February 2011 for consideration.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In July 2010, Council began a public consultation on the proposed sale of nine Council-owned buildings. The Irish Cultural Centre was one of the proposed buildings for disposals. A petition containing over 5,000 signatures from people living, working or studying in the borough was received against the proposed sale.

1.2 The Petition's prayer is as follows:-

"We the undersigned hereby express our strong opposition to the council's intention to sell the Irish Cultural Centre.

We respectfully request that you as the elected leaders of the council do everything in your power to reconsider the future of this building and its people.

Help to preserve their excellent Cultural Programme, the broad spectrum of support and services it provides, and to maintain a centre for both the Irish in London, and the large number of users from all other backgrounds".

1.3 The Petition also contained a statement which is attached at an appendix to this report.

1.4 Under the Council's Petitions Scheme, a petition attracting a minimum of 5000 valid signatures (of people who live, work or study in the borough) triggers consideration of the petition by Full Council.

1.5 A report on the H&F Buildings Consultation, including recommendations regarding the Irish Cultural Centre is due to be considered at Cabinet on 7th February 2011.

2. COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE PETITION

2.1 In accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, the petition organiser (or someone he/she nominates) may address the Council for up to 5 minutes on the subject of the petition. The Council may then decide to take one or more of the following courses of action:

- a) take the action requested in the petition
- b) hold an inquiry into the matter
- c) undertake research into the matter
- d) hold a public meeting

- e) hold further consultation
- f) hold a meeting with petitioners
- g) refer the petition for consideration by the relevant Select Committee
- h) write to the petition organiser setting out its views about the request in the petition.

3. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

3.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

4. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)

4.1 The petition is valid under the Council's statutory Petition Scheme under Part 1 of the Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and falls to be considered by Council. The future of the Irish Centre is an executive decision and therefore a matter for Cabinet. Full Council may debate the issue under the Petitions Scheme and its views and recommendations will be considered by Cabinet at its next meeting.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Petitions and letters relating to The Irish Cultural Centre.	Kayode Adewumi ext. 2499	Finance and Corporate Services, Head of Councillor Services
CONTACT OFFICER		NAME: Kayode Adewumi EXT. 2499	