

Item No. 2.1	Classification: Open	Date: 11 July 2018	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Petition – Provision of Respite Facilities for Children with Disabilities during School Holidays	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly consider a petition from local residents regarding the provision of respite facilities for children with disabilities during school holidays.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A petition containing 1,500 signatures or more may be presented to the Mayor at council assembly. 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 for up to five minutes on the subject matter. Council assembly will debate the petition for a period of up to 15 minutes and may decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting.
4. Council assembly should decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. A decision could be made 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.
5. Any relevant resource or community impact issues will be contained in the comments of the strategic director.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. A petition containing over 1,500 signatures has been received from Tolulope Enifeni. The petition states:

‘Please kindly support me in signing the petition I created to support parents, carers, children with special needs and disabilities living in Southwark borough. The petition is to encourage the local authority to open a specialised play centre with facilities tailored to meet the needs of all children with complex needs and disabilities.

We currently do not have enough respite facilities, any specialised play centres with indoor facilities in the borough that is accessible after school, during term time, school holidays and over the weekends for children with additional needs and disabilities to benefit from.

Parents always have to go out of the borough paying a lot of money to access the leisure and play scheme facilities. Few of the play scheme facilities available are for children from age 8 and over. During the school holidays, most families with children with disabilities struggles to engage their children due to the lack of leisure facilities and play centres in the borough.

A play centre with different recreational facilities tailored to meet our children's need will be beneficial to our community.

Recreational facilities such as trampolines, hydrotherapy pool, wall climbing, adventure playground, sensory garden, sensory room and a large soft play area.

Indoor activities which also includes a music room, game room and different sport facilities for children age 3 - 15.'

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Petition Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.4, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidi Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	28 June 2018	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		28 June 2018