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| <b>Item No.</b><br>8.              | <b>Classification:</b><br>Open | <b>Date:</b><br>15 March 2016      | <b>Meeting Name:</b><br>Cabinet |
| <b>Report title:</b>               |                                | Petition from the Feminist Library |                                 |
| <b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b> |                                | All                                |                                 |
| <b>From:</b>                       |                                | Proper Constitutional Officer      |                                 |

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the cabinet consider a petition from the Feminist Library.

## **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 15,344 signatures (as at 2 March 2016) has been received from the Feminist Library.
5. The petition states:

“Save the Feminist Library from eviction and request Southwark Council to:

  - Withdraw your notice to evict the Feminist Library on 1 March - the first day of Women’s History Month
  - Enter into negotiations with the Feminist Library to gradually implement the proposed threefold rent increase
  - Work with the Feminist Library to keep it open as a community space, in line with the aims of your Voluntary Sector Strategy, announced on 10 February.”

## **Community impact statement**

6. The Southwark Constitution allows for petitions to be presented by members of the public and can be submitted by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in Southwark.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

## AUDIT TRAIL

|   |  |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Lead Officer</b>   | Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager  |                          |
| <b>Report Author</b>  | Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer |                          |
| <b>Version</b>  | Final                                  |                          |
| <b>Dated</b>  | 2 March 2016                           |                          |
| <b>Key Decision?</b>  | No                                     |                          |
| <b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b> |  |                          |
| <b>Officer Title</b>  | <b>Comments Sought</b>                 | <b>Comments included</b> |
| Director of Law and Democracy   | No                                     | No                       |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Governance                            | No                                     | No                       |
| <b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>                    |  | 2 March 2016             |