


Agenda Item No:	8	
Committee:	COUNCIL	
Date:	18 DECEMBER 2014	
Report Title:	PETITION - ON PROPOSED CLOSURE OF COMMUNITY HOUSE	

1 Purpose / Summary

For Council to consider a petition regarding the proposed closure of Community House, Wisbech

2 Key issues

- The Council has received a petition objecting to the proposed closure of Community House Wisbech.
- In summary the petition states "As a resident of Fenland, I do not support the proposed changes outlined in the 18 September Cabinet paper, Agenda Item 10, of de-prioritising and stopping the work undertaken at Community House Wisbech. I want the continuation of the current resourcing, services and ethos, that gives support for families, individuals and the broader community provided by the very knowledgeable professional and existing staff. The services provided are in a caring, personal, confidential welcoming atmosphere, shaped to individual needs when necessary and it is vital that this support continues in this locality. This very special service, if closed, as proposed in the Cabinet paper, I understand will actually not be transferred as a whole to anywhere else in the area and this is what I am objecting to.
- The petition has received 535 hard copy signatures and 35 electronic signatures, therefore exceeding the minimum 500 signatures required to facilitate a debate at full Council
- When considering a petition, the Council has several options on how to respond to the petition including;
 - Taking the action requested in the petition
 - Considering the petition at a council meeting
 - Referring the petition for consideration by the Council's overview and Scrutiny Committee
- There is an agenda item in relation to the Community Support consultation outcomes to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 05 January 2015, this meeting is scheduled to take place following conclusion of the public consultation on 19 December 2014. It is therefore suggested that this petition is referred to Overview and Scrutiny for consideration alongside the Community Support substantive agenda item.

3 Recommendations

- For Council to note the petition and refer the matter for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 05 January 2015, following which the matter is then scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 22 January 2015.

Wards Affected	All Wisbech Wards
Forward Plan Reference	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Mike Cornwell
Report Originator(s)	Anna Goodall Head of Governance and Legal Services agoodall@fenland.gov.uk 01354 622357
Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd Chief Executive Rob Bridge Corporate Director Alan Pain Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer Anna Goodall Head of Governance and Legal Services
Background Paper(s)	Cabinet Report 18 September 2014 - Community Support: Developing the future approach.