Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Council	
MEETING DATE	16th January 2013	
TITLE:	Children's Centres – petition for debate	
WARD:	All wards	

AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

List of attachments to this report:

Factual briefing note plus appendices 1 - 6

1   THE ISSUE

1.1 An electronic and paper petition has been received regarding reductions in opening hours and the range of services provided at Children's Centres across Bath and North East Somerset, calling on the Council not to go ahead with these proposals. According to the Council's petition scheme, if a petition with over 1000 signatures of people who live, work and study in Bath & North East Somerset is received and meets the criteria, it triggers a debate at Council.

2   RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That a debate takes place.

3   THE REPORT

3.1 The text of the petition reads as follows; "B&NES Council are planning to cut almost 40% from the Children's Services budget over the next two years, forcing drastic reductions in opening hours and the range of services at Children's Centres across Bath and North East Somerset. We, the undersigned, call on B&NES to protect our Children's Centres, and not to go ahead with its planned 38% cut to Children's Services".

3.2 There are 880 signatures on the paper petition and 231 on the online petition.

3.3 A briefing note setting out relevant issues is attached for information.

3.4 Council, if it wishes, can make recommendations to Cabinet but cannot amend executive policy. Decisions on the amount of money to be allocated to particular uses or proposals are matters for full Council to decide. How any money allocated is spent is a matter for Cabinet, not full Council, to decide.

3.5 The lead petitioner will address Council at the start of the item.

4   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Covered within the attached briefing paper.

Contact person	*Jo Morrison, Democratic Services Manager (ext 4358)*
Background papers	*Set out in the attached briefing paper.*
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	