

REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 26 AUGUST 2021

PETITION FOR CONSIDERATION – SAVE THE PUDDINGS IN ABERDEENSHIRE SCHOOLS

1 Reason for Report/Summary

- 1.1 The Council's Standing Orders permit a member of the public to submit a petition for consideration at a meeting of the Council or any of its Committees. A petition has been received for a matter within the remit of this Committee therefore the Committee is asked to consider the petition and determine further action in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider the petition received by the Director of Business Services, as described in this report; and**
- 1.2 Consider whether to instruct a report from the Head of Resources and Performance on the subject matter of the petition.**

3. Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 In terms of Standing Order 6.2.1, members of the public may submit a petition for an item not on a meeting agenda to a Committee. The petition must be received by the Director of Business Services no later than fourteen days prior to the relevant Committee meeting, and it must comply with prescribed requirements within Standing Orders.
- 3.2 A petition has been received by the Director of Business Services which complies with the both the criteria under Standing Order 6.2.2 and the Guidance on Petitions in Part 4H of the Scheme of Governance.
- 3.3 The Chair of this Committee has determined that the subject matter of the petition is competent and relevant in terms of the Committee's remit and it shall therefore be put before this meeting
- 3.4 In terms of Standing Order 6.4, the Committee can determine to one of two courses of action: to simply note the terms of the petition; or to instruct the relevant officer to provide a report for a subsequent meeting of the Committee.
- 3.5 The Committee cannot take a substantive decision on the subject matter of the petition without receiving a report back from the relevant officer, in this case the Head of Resources and Performance.

4. Discussion

4.1 The petition was received on 21 June 2021. It contains 847 signatures. The Council's Guidance on Petitions confirms that a petition for a Policy Committee must have a minimum number of 100 signatures, therefore the petition meets that threshold.

4.2 The action the petition requires the Committee to take is summarized in the petition document, as follows:-

The title of the petition is 'Save the Puddings in Aberdeenshire Schools' and the petition statement asks the Council to consider to give the treats (puddings, ice cream and custard) back to the lunch menus and take a more balanced view of a healthy lifestyle.

4.3 A copy of the petition is in **Appendix 1**.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 Specify which of the Council's Priorities are relevant to the report.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure • Resilient Communities
Our Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy & Enterprise • Estate Modernisation

This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority of "Education and Health and Wellbeing" within the Pillar "Our People".

5.2. The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		x	
Staffing		x	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		x	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		x	
Climate Change and Sustainability		x	
Health and Wellbeing		x	
Town Centre First		x	

5.3 An integrated impact assessment is not required as the Committee is not being asked to take a substantive decision at this time and the report does

not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics. Any implications of the action proposed by the petition will be included in a future report from the relevant Head of Service on the subject matter of the petition, if so instructed by the Committee.

5.4 There are no identified risks at this time.

6. Scheme of Governance

6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Standing Order 6.2.3 as the subject matter of the petition is deemed to be competent and relevant in terms of the Committee's remit and under Section E.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to a matter which impacts the Committee's area.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Kasia Balina, Committee Officer
Date 22 July 2021

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Petition “Save the Puddings in Aberdeenshire Schools”

Director of Business Services,
Aberdeenshire Council,
Woodhill House,
Aberdeen.
AB16 5GB

18th June, 2021.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find enclosed a copy of our petition "Save the Puddings in Aberdeenshire Schools'. We have provided details on the enclosed template.

We have previously written to the council on this matter and our feedback was acknowledged in a letter from the School Catering Service dated 21st May 2021. However, we do not feel that the matter has been addressed fully and we wish to make the depth of feeling for this matter within our school communities known.

We hope to have the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully,

William Dibb (and Angus Beverly)

(PUPILS AT RHYNIE SCHOOL)
AGE 11 AND AGE 10

APPENDIX A – PETITION SUBMISSION FORM

Details of the Principal Petitioner
Name: WILLIAM DIBB
Address: L
Postcode:
Tel No:
Email: C

Subject Matter/Title of the Petition
SAVE THE PUDDINGS IN ABERDEENSHIRE SCHOOLS
Petition Statement: (Maximum of 250 words detailing what action the petitioner wishes the Council to take.) THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED NEW HEALTHY EATING GUIDANCE ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL HAS TAKEN A VERY STRICT INTERPRETATION OF THIS GUIDANCE AND REMOVED ALL PUDDINGS, ICECREAM AND CUSTARD FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS - LEAVING A DAILY DIET OF FRUIT SALAD AND A TINY, DRY MUFFIN WITH NO ICING IF WE ARE LUCKY. THIS IS A FAR MORE STRICT INTERPRETATION OF THE GUIDANCE THAN HAS BEEN APPLIED IN OTHER COUNCIL AREAS IN SCOTLAND. WE (THE CHILDREN) SUPPORT HEALTHY EATING AS PART OF A BALANCED DIET WITH PLENTY OF EXERCISE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY SOME ARBITRARY DECISIONS ON DIETARY ADVICE HAVE BEEN TAKEN. CHEESE WHEELS (FOR EXAMPLE) CONTINUE TO BE PART OF OUR MENU. THESE ARE PIECES OF CHEESE FLAVOURED PUFF PASTRY WITH LITTLE OR NO NUTRITIONAL VALUE. WHITE BREAD, CHIPS AND OTHER ITEMS OF PROCESSED FOOD REMAIN A LARGE PART OF THE SCHOOL DIET. (PT)
What action (if any) has been taken to resolve the issue <u>before</u> submitting the petition? FEEDBACK SENT TO SCHOOL CATERING SERVICE MAY 2021.

Other Proceedings

Please indicate whether any of the following apply to the issue concerned.

Are the issue(s) raised in the petition currently being dealt with by Aberdeenshire Council? Yes No

Have the issues raised been dealt by Aberdeenshire Council in the past? Yes No

Are the issue(s) raised subject to any legal proceedings? Yes No

Request to Speak

A petitioner may request to speak about their petition at the Committee meeting. The decision whether to hear from speakers is made by the Committee. Please indicate below whether you wish to have the opportunity to speak about your petition.

I DO wish to make a brief statement during the meeting.

I DO NOT wish to make a brief statement during the meeting.

Declaration and Signature of Principal Petitioner

I declare that the information provided by me on the above form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Print Name:

WILLIAM OIBB

Signature: _____

Date: 18/06/2021

Number of people who have signed the petition.

847.

change.org

Recipient: **Aberdeenshire Council**

Letter: **Greetings,**

Save the Puddings in Aberdeenshire Schools!