

## PETITION

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The County Council has received the following petition:

### *Save East Sussex Music Service*

*We the undersigned petition the council to oppose the closure of East Sussex Music Instrumental Service. To avoid the dramatic impact this would have for the thousands of children concerned, we believe that East Sussex County Council should provide the funding or implement alternative changes to keep the service open.*

*East Sussex County Council have announced that plans are being made to close the music instrumental service by 2019 because of a funding shortfall of £80,000. This will result in loss of valued music provision for thousands of children across the county and job losses for teachers and administrative staff.*

*East Sussex Music Service, celebrating its 84th year, delivers music lessons to around 7000 children in schools. Nearly 1000 children aged between 4 and 18 attend area music centres each week.*

*Staff at the music service believe that the funding can be found or alternatively there are viable structures that the council can implement that would allow the service to continue.*

When submitted the petition contained 12,359 signatures. As the number of signatures exceeds 5000 the Council's Petition Scheme allows for the petition to be presented to, and debated by, the Full Council. A representative of the petitioners will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting prior to the debate. The relevant extract of the Petition Scheme is set out below

### **Full Council debates**

If a petition has more than 5000 signatures it will be debated by the full council, unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all councillors can attend.

The Council will try to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. It may decide 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, for example by a relevant committee. Where the issue

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is one on which the Council's Cabinet is required to make the final decision, the Council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision.