

**Wiltshire Council**

**Annual Council**

**10 May 2016**

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**Petition Received**

**'Stop Bus Cuts' Organised by the Salisbury Journal**

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To consider a petition with 6,183 signatories organised by the Salisbury Journal which states:

***'The Salisbury Journal newspaper is calling for Wiltshire Council end its plans to axe dozens of bus services – which could have disastrous consequences for rural communities.***

***As the council threatens to pull funding from subsidised routes across the county, the Journal has launched a campaign to STOP BUS CUTS.***

***Six different plans are on the table to slash a £5million budget – including ending all subsidies.***

***Join the campaign to show decision makers in County Hall that bus subsidies must be saved in Wiltshire'.***

The petition meets the threshold for a Council debate which operates in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme as follows:

**Petition Scheme – Council Debate**

If the petition is of a sufficient size to trigger a debate at the full council the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all councillors can attend.

The council will endeavour 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. In addition to your petition the council may also consider the views of the cabinet or cabinet member. If you would like you may also have the opportunity to answer questions or clarify issues for the councillors.

The council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. The council 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 is one on which the council's cabinet are 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. This confirmation will also be published on the council's website. Alternatively and if timing permits the petition may be referred to the cabinet for its views so that at the council meeting the views can be considered alongside the petition and a final decision made.

**Robin Townsend**  
**Associate Director, Corporate Function, Procurement and Programme Office**