

**From:**  
**To:** [Cllr Vi Dempster](#); [Kamal Adatia](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Petition arrived  
**Date:** 27 June 2025 12:19:54

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I've asked Lee and he said that if we send to him on Monday it will still be a valid submission to the consultation.

Kind Regards

Leicester City Council

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**From:** @leicester.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 27 June 2025 12:14  
**To:** Cllr Vi Dempster <Vi.Dempster@leicester.gov.uk>; Kamal Adatia <Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** @leicester.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Petition arrived

Dear Vi/Kamal

just letting you know that we have received a large petition about Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre – claims to be 1,931 verified signatures.

The person who delivered it downstairs is keen that it is logged as having arrived before the consultation closes on Sunday.

is going to collect it from me on Monday.



**From:** [Kamal Adatia](#)  
**To:** [Sean Atterbury](#); [Lee Warner](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Petition: Save Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre - 25-06-02  
**Date:** 23 June 2025 18:56:00

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Thanks. I did discuss this issue with each of and Lee today.

The treatment of **Petitions** in the context of **Consultations** is not specifically dealt with in the published Petitions **Scheme**, so we need to try to think it through.

The **Scheme** does list some exclusions, and that includes Petitions received about Planning or Licensing matters, because other procedures apply. Specifically, these matters have statutory requirements for objections/representations, and strict procedures for timely and binding decision-making. My view is that a parallel can be drawn with formal Consultations. To respond to Petitions in the course of garnering public views could be pre-emptive. Proposals are just that, and to get drawn in to defending or even debating a position (as the Lead Member) is unwise when a decision could be months away. It could also compromise other Elected Members, who, in other situations, may be decision-makers such as when the matter is a decision for Full Council. I also think that when people submit a Petition during the course of a parallel Consultation, they are really responding to the Consultation, but doing so in a manner (Petition) which they feel has more clout. My point is that the Lead Petitioner knows they are contributing to a Consultation, without necessarily triggering a **separate** process such as the right to present a Petition (all Petitions), or trigger Officer evidence at Scrutiny (750+) or a debate at Full Council (1500+). So, in summary, I could defend a position which treats a Petition as a Consultation response in these circumstances. The crux is that the voice of the public is heard.

I think we can and should acknowledge the Petition(s) with the Lead Petitioner, but make it clear that (i) it will be processed as a consultation response; (ii) the consultation analysis will make it clear how many signatories signed the Petition; (iii) the decision-maker(s) will be apprised of the petition (and all other consultation responses) before they make any final decisions.

Consequently, I don't think that any of the other freestanding rights that pertain to Petitions should apply (e.g. to present a Petition (all Petitions), or trigger Officer evidence at Scrutiny (750+) or a debate at Full Council (1500+))

I have given similar advice in the context of Local Government Reorganisation regarding whether, and when, we should accept large Petitions whilst we are still formulating our proposals and before Members have had the opportunity to come together and debate them. It is also consistent with what other LA#s do -for example Lancashire County Council state ***"Where a petition is submitted in response to a public consultation being run by the council, the petition will be considered as part of that process and along with other consultation responses. The council will not necessarily respond to the petition separately via the petitions process in this circumstance"***

p.s. please make a note to look at this when we next review the Petitions Scheme.

Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards  
Monitoring Officer  
Leicester City Council

**(Part-Time - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only)**

 E-mail: [Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)  
 Web: [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

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**From:** @leicester.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 16 June 2025 11:08  
**To:** Sean Atterbury <Sean.Atterbury@leicester.gov.uk>; Kamal Adatia <Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Lee Warner <Lee.Warner@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Petition: Save Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre - 25-06-02

Morning Sean,

Thank you for the update on the position of this petition in relation to the ongoing consultation process.

I will liaise with Kamal regarding the validity of these petitions (as I'm aware another of this nature has been submitted). Please could I encourage that this petition is included in the consultation feedback as you have stated below.

I will further liaise with Cllr Adatia about the position of this petition following confirmation from Kamal.

Kind Regards,

---

**From:** Sean Atterbury <[Sean.Atterbury@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Sean.Atterbury@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 16 June 2025 11:02  
**To:** @leicester.gov.uk>; Kamal Adatia <[Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Lee Warner <[Lee.Warner@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Lee.Warner@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: Petition: Save Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre - 25-06-02

Morning

As we are currently in a consultation about the same building, we are not in a position to accept this petition. As an alternative we can adopt the feedback into the consultation feedback as it has arrived before the closure date.

There is a point of validity though with Cllr Adatia leading this which [@Kamal Adatia](#) will need to assess,

Regards

Sean

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**From:** [@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:@leicester.gov.uk)  
**Sent:** 16 June 2025 10:54  
**To:** Sean Atterbury <[Sean.Atterbury@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Sean.Atterbury@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:@leicester.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Petition: Save Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre - 25-06-02

Good Morning Sean,

We have received a petition opposing to the closure of the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre. The petition is attached and has been verified to 18 signatures. Could you please let me know which officer will lead on the petition / provide a response to the request?

## BACKGROUND

### Validation of the petition

***“We the undersigned petition the council to stop its plans to cut or close our much-loved libraries and community centres. These local facilities are essential to the residents who rely on them for education, social connection, support, and community activities. We ask the Council to: • Drop any plans to close or reduce services at Leicester’s libraries and community centres • Invest in these facilities and keep them accessible to all residents • Work with local communities to find better ways to protect and improve these services You are signing to support: Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre***

### ***Justification:***

***We, the undersigned, call on Leicester City Council to stop its plans to cut or close our much-loved libraries and community centres. These local facilities are essential to the residents who rely on them for education, social connection, support, and community activities. We ask the Council to:***

- Drop any plans to close or reduce services at Leicester’s libraries and***

### ***community centres***

- ***Invest in these facilities and keep them accessible to all residents***
- ***Work with local communities to find better ways to protect and improve these services.”***

Lead Petitioner – Mr Shital Adatia (Councillor)

Wards – Belgrave – Councillors Gopal and Chauhan

No of signatures/representations – 18

Target time for Proforma: **17 September 2025**

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

#### **Petition Scheme**

Council’s Petition Scheme (Revised and adopted by Council June 2022)

Guidance to Officers on Internal Petition Process including a blank proforma  
(Revised and adopted by Council in 2019)

#### **Petitions**

Petition with signatures

Acknowledgement Letter

### **GENERAL**

The petition scheme requires that consultation should take place with the lead petitioner and ward members and once a proposed response to the petition is agreed, a pro-forma should be prepared and submitted to the Lead Executive Member. Once the Lead Executive Member has agreed to the proposed response, this should be recorded on the pro-forma and sent to me and I will then ask the appropriate Scrutiny Chair for comments and then send the pro-forma back to the Executive Member for final sign off. Please also note that the completed pro-forma needs to be signed within three months of this e-mail, but it would be prudent to aim to complete the pro-forma to allow up to month for the Lead Executive Members to be briefed, the Scrutiny Chair to make comments and the Lead Executive Member to then sign off the response to the petition.

OSC do not wish the Petition Monitoring Report to generate too much discussion and distract from the remainder of the agenda, so getting the pro-forma prepared and signed within three months is very key to this. OSC have also indicated that if the outcome of a petition is that it will be part of longer term review of the budget/capital programme/local environmental works scheme/supported bus reviews/waiting lists etc, then that is the outcome of the petition and a pro-forma should be prepared to that effect, and not wait until any subsequent review takes place.

Can you please ensure that the Executive are regularly informed of the progress in response to this petition.

Kind Regards,





Please ask for:

Direct line: (0116) 454

Email: @leicester.gov.uk

Date: 30 June 2025



Dear Lead Petitioner,

**PETITION: Save Leicester's Libraries and Community Centres**

Thank you for your submitted petition comprising 6000+ signatures supportive of the following wording:

***We, the undersigned, call on Leicester City Council to stop its plans to cut or close our much-loved libraries and community centres. These local facilities are essential to the residents who rely on them for education, social connection, support, and community activities.***

***We ask the Council to:***

- Drop any plans to close or reduce services at Leicester's libraries and community centres***
- Invest in these facilities and keep them accessible to all residents***
- Work with local communities to find better ways to protect and improve these services***

You Petition was submitted during a formal public consultation on Proposals for Libraries and Community Centres which ran from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 to 29 June 2025. Consultations are carried out in order that the Council, before making a decision on service delivery, can obtain and reflect upon the views of those who might be affected. A Petition received in the course of a Consultation is treated as a consultation response. Your Petition will therefore be submitted to the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services to be analysed (with full acknowledgement of the size of the Petition) along with all of the other consultation responses. It will be reported upon when the consultation analysis is compiled and published later in the decision-making process.

Yours sincerely

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**LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL**

**City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
LEICESTER  
LE1 1FZ**

[www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

**From:**  
**To:** [Kamal Adatia](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Petition: Save Leicester's Libraries and Community Centres  
**Date:** 02 July 2025 09:35:01  
**Attachments:** [Petition Consultation Response.doc](#)

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Please see attached.

Kind Regards,

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**From:** Kamal Adatia <[Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 02 July 2025 09:33  
**To:** @leicester.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** @leicester.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Petition: Save Leicester's Libraries and Community Centres

Thanks can I see the attachment that you sent?

Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards  
Monitoring Officer  
Leicester City Council

**(Part-Time - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only)**

 E-mail: [Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)  
 Web: [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

---

**From:** @leicester.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 02 July 2025 09:31  
**To:** Kamal Adatia <[Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** @leicester.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Petition: Save Leicester's Libraries and Community Centres

Good Morning Kamal,

Please see below Cllr Chauhan's response to the consultation petition letter you had advised on. I'm aware you said you would liaise with Councillor's should any of them wish to discuss the response further.

Kind Regards,

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**From:** Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <[Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 01 July 2025 18:29

**To:** [@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:@leicester.gov.uk)

**Cc:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <[Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Shital Adatia <[Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <[Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <[Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Devi Singh Patel <[Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Re: Petition: Save Leicester's Libraries and Community Centres

Dear

I hope you doing well.

I am upset and unable to understand that, why my petitions is not added to full council meet agenda to be debate?

consultation process has got nothing to do with a petition for full council.

Where in the constitution does it state that.

Ward Cllrs and members of public work tirelessly to get these petitions.

Not including these petitions in 3rd July meeting agenda mean blocking public voice from heard and delaying the process.

could you please reinstate both petitions on council agenda.

Regards

Cllr Chauhan

Belgrave Ward

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**From:** [@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:@leicester.gov.uk)

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 10:27:14 am

**To:** Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <[Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <[Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Petition: Save Leicester's Libraries and Community Centres

Good Morning Councillors,

Please see attached to this email your response to the subject titled petition.

Kind Regards,



**From:** [Kamal Adatia](#)  
**To:** [Cllr Yogesh Chauhan](#); [Cllr Geeta Karavadra](#)  
**Cc:** [Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia](#); [Cllr Shital Adatia](#); [Cllr Jaantilal Gopal](#); [Cllr Bhupen Dave](#); [Cllr Devi Singh Patel](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent  
**Date:** 01 July 2025 18:34:00

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Dear Councillor Chauhan,

I am well thank you for asking. I hope you are well also.

I have a similar question from Councillor Karavadra so I'll provide a consolidated reply.

Your Petition was submitted in response to the consultation that was live until 29<sup>th</sup> June. I was, after 16<sup>th</sup> June, asked to advise on the treatment of the Petition. I was on holiday when you submitted it, but I returned to work on 23<sup>rd</sup> June (last week).

It is my view (consistent with other Local Authorities) that petitions received in response to, or in parallel with, live formal consultation exercises should be treated as consultation responses and not freestanding Petitions. This is because the consultation exercise (and subsequent analysis) provides an alternative procedure for taking into account the views of the public expressed in the Petition. I believe this is a preferable procedure, because to (for example) debate a Petition (1500+) treats consultation options as if they are the ones being taken forward for a Decision and potentially pre-empts the proposals that will eventually be put forward for a Decision. Yet there are months to go before a Decision on these matters is proposed, and before the consultation feedback is analysed and reported upon nobody knows what those proposals will be. It would therefore be pre-emptive for the Council (some of whose Members will be eventual decision-makers) to debate in July 2025 Petitions to "save X building/service" when we are months away from any firm proposals. Once firmer proposals are developed over the coming months I am confident that members will have further opportunity to scrutinise publicly.

Of course it is important that petitions are acknowledged, and my team will ensure that the Lead Petitioner(s) are informed that the Petition (i) will be processed as a consultation response; (ii) the consultation analysis will make it clear how many signatories signed the Petition; (iii) the decision-maker(s) will be apprised of the petition (and all other consultation responses) before they consider any final decisions.

Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards  
Monitoring Officer  
Leicester City Council

**(Part-Time - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only)**

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 Web: [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

---

**From:** Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 30 June 2025 08:46  
**To:** Kamal Adatia <Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Shital Adatia <Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Jaantilal Gopal <Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Devi Singh Patel <Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Urgent

Dear Kamal, Good morning,

I hope you are doing well.

Belgrave and Rushey Mead Ward submitted petitions against CAT of library and Community Centre to Julian in presence of member services well withing deadlines and received acknowledged receipt too.

However, I can't find information or agenda item in upcoming full council meeting. Am I missing something in paperwork in post?

Could you please assist me in clarify that our petition will be added to agenda item list and can be debate in the upcoming full council meeting.

Thank you

Cllr Chauhan  
Belgrave Ward





**From:** [Kamal Adatia](#)  
**To:** [Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia](#)  
**Cc:** [Cllr Shital Adatia](#); [Cllr Bhupen Dave](#); [Cllr Devi Singh Patel](#); [Cllr Yogesh Chauhan](#); [Cllr Geeta Karavadra](#); [Cllr Jaantilal Gopal](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent  
**Date:** 03 July 2025 10:53:00

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Dear Councillor Rae Bhatia,

Thank you for your e-mail.

I hope I explained my reasoning in my e-mail (below) from Tuesday, and the sequencing of matters. No-one who has submitted a Petition (I believe seven have come in, of varying sizes) has asked, before compiling them, how they would be treated. The Petitions Scheme does state that for matters like Planning (where other decision-making procedures apply) petitions will be treated as part of the planning consideration process (i.e. representations). You are right that the Scheme is silent on the treatment of Petitions submitted during formal consultation exercises. However my role, as Monitoring Officer, is to interpret the Constitution and I am sure you accept that the written rules will never deal with every scenario.

The question then arises as to my motivation for interpreting the rules one way or another. I note with disappointment your assertion that my interpretation is based on “*nothing more than twisting the rules for political reasons and curbing democracy*”. This is simply not true. I am passionate about our libraries and community centres, having been born and raised in this great city and being a high-volume user of our libraries in particular. I consulted no-one in the Council (officer or member) before giving my interpretation last week. My job is to protect the integrity of decision-making, not to undermine democracy. I have explained below the logic of my advice, which has been conveyed to other Lead Petitioners (including from Rushey Mead) and accepted with thanks. The twin thrust of my advice is motivated by a desire not to pre-empt eventual proposals, and to acknowledge that freestanding Petitions are generally a “call to action” and where a formal Consultation is undertaken (as in this case) then this is the very “action” that is required. My advice is also consistent with what other Councils do in this same situation (you can conduct an internet/Google search).

I can assure you that all of my advice on this topic (I sit on the Project Board and have done so for two years) will be designed to ensure that the Council follows proper engagement and decision-making processes, and does so with maximum, legally appropriate, processes.

Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards  
Monitoring Officer  
Leicester City Council

**(Part-Time - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only)**

 E-mail: [Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)



Web: [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

---

**From:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 02 July 2025 23:36  
**To:** Kamal Adatia <Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Cllr Shital Adatia <Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Devi Singh Patel <Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Jaantilal Gopal <Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent

Dear Kamal,

We specifically asked the governance officer about the submission deadline for full council. His response (I have email) was that if it has over 1500 signatures then it was 18th June, which we complied with and submitted the two petitions in person for them to be considered for full council. They were duly acknowledged.

Now this interpretation made by you/officers that we have submitted them as part of the consultation process is incorrect. We never asked our petitions to be considered as part of that process, which you have done by default!

Not allowing these to be included on council agenda is nothing more than twisting the rules for political reasons and curbing democracy. The constitution clearly states that if we have over 1500 signatures then it must be considered for debate at full council.

Therefore, I urge you to kindly take all this into account and ask the governance officers to add them to the council agenda. Thank you.

Hemant

Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia  
Beaumont Leys Ward  
Leader Conservatives Group  
Leicester City Council

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**From:** Kamal Adatia <[Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 6:34:17 pm  
**To:** Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <[Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <[Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <[Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Shital Adatia

<[Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Jaantilal Gopal  
<[Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <[Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk)>;  
Cllr Devi Singh Patel <[Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk)>

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Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards  
Monitoring Officer  
Leicester City Council

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**Sent:** 30 June 2025 08:46  
**To:** Kamal Adatia <[Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <[Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Shital Adatia <[Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Jaantilal Gopal <[Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <[Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <[Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Devi Singh Patel <[Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Urgent

Dear Kamal, Good morning,

I hope you are doing well.

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However, I can't find information or agenda item in upcoming full council meeting. Am I missing something in paperwork in post?

Could you please assist me in clarify that our petition will be added to agenda item list and can be debate in the upcoming full council meeting.

Thank you

Cllr Chauhan  
Belgrave Ward



**From:** [Kamal Adatia](#)  
**To:** [Alison Greenhill](#); [Sir Peter Soulsby](#); [Cllr Vi Dempster](#); [Sean Atterbury](#); [Lee Warner](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent  
**Date:** 03 July 2025 10:54:00

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Just making you aware of this exchange, in confidence.

Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards  
Monitoring Officer  
Leicester City Council

**(Part-Time - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only)**

 E-mail: [Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)  
 Web: [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

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**From:** Kamal Adatia  
**Sent:** 03 July 2025 10:53  
**To:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Cllr Shital Adatia <Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Devi Singh Patel <Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk>; Cllr Jaantilal Gopal <Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent

Dear Councillor Rae Bhatia,

Thank you for your e-mail.

I hope I explained my reasoning in my e-mail (below) from Tuesday, and the sequencing of matters. No-one who has submitted a Petition (I believe seven have come in, of varying sizes) has asked, before compiling them, how they would be treated. The Petitions Scheme does state that for matters like Planning (where other decision-making procedures apply) petitions will be treated as part of the planning consideration process (i.e. representations). You are right that the Scheme is silent on the treatment of Petitions submitted during formal consultation exercises. However my role, as Monitoring Officer, is to interpret the Constitution and I am sure you accept that the written rules will never deal with every scenario.

The question then arises as to my motivation for interpreting the rules one way or another. I note with disappointment your assertion that my interpretation is based on “*nothing more than twisting the rules for political reasons and curbing democracy*”. This is simply not true. I am passionate about our libraries and community centres, having been born and raised in this great city and being a high-volume user of our libraries in particular. I consulted no-one in the Council (officer or member) before giving my interpretation last

week. My job is to protect the integrity of decision-making, not to undermine democracy. I have explained below the logic of my advice, which has been conveyed to other Lead Petitioners (including from Rushey Mead) and accepted with thanks. The twin thrust of my advice is motivated by a desire not to pre-empt eventual proposals, and to acknowledge that freestanding Petitions are generally a “call to action” and where a formal Consultation is undertaken (as in this case) then this is the very “action” that is required. My advice is also consistent with what other Councils do in this same situation (you can conduct an internet/Google search).

I can assure you that all of my advice on this topic (I sit on the Project Board and have done so for two years) will be designed to ensure that the Council follows proper engagement and decision-making processes, and does so with maximum, legally appropriate, processes.

Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards  
Monitoring Officer  
Leicester City Council

**(Part-Time - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday only)**

 E-mail: [Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)  
 Web: [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

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**From:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <[Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 02 July 2025 23:36  
**To:** Kamal Adatia <[Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Cllr Shital Adatia <[Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <[Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Devi Singh Patel <[Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <[Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <[Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Jaantilal Gopal <[Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent

Dear Kamal,

We specifically asked the governance officer about the submission deadline for full council. His response (I have email) was that if it has over 1500 signatures then it was 18th June, which we complied with and submitted the two petitions in person for them to be considered for full council. They were duly acknowledged.

Now this interpretation made by you/officers that we have submitted them as part of the consultation process is incorrect. We never asked our petitions to be considered as part of that process, which you have done by default!

Not allowing these to be included on council agenda is nothing more than twisting

the rules for political reasons and curbing democracy. The constitution clearly states that if we have over 1500 signatures then it must be considered for debate at full council.

Therefore, I urge you to kindly take all this into account and ask the governance officers to add them to the council agenda. Thank you.

Hemant

Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia  
Beaumont Leys Ward  
Leader Conservatives Group  
Leicester City Council

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**From:** Kamal Adatia <[Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 1, 2025 6:34:17 pm  
**To:** Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <[Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <[Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <[Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Shital Adatia <[Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Jaantilal Gopal <[Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <[Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Devi Singh Patel <[Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent

Dear Councillor Chauhan,

I am well thank you for asking. I hope you are well also.

I have a similar question from Councillor Karavadra so I'll provide a consolidated reply.

Your Petition was submitted in response to the consultation that was live until 29<sup>th</sup> June. I was, after 16<sup>th</sup> June, asked to advise on the treatment of the Petition. I was on holiday when you submitted it, but I returned to work on 23<sup>rd</sup> June (last week).

It is my view (consistent with other Local Authorities) that petitions received in response to, or in parallel with, live formal consultation exercises should be treated as consultation responses and not freestanding Petitions. This is because the consultation exercise (and subsequent analysis) provides an alternative procedure for taking into account the views of the public expressed in the Petition. I believe this is a preferable procedure, because to (for example) debate a Petition (1500+) treats consultation options as if they are the ones being taken forward for a Decision and potentially pre-empts the proposals that will eventually be put forward for a Decision. Yet there are months to go before a Decision on these matters is proposed, and before the consultation feedback is analysed and reported upon



nobody knows what those proposals will be. It would therefore be pre-emptive for the Council (some of whose Members will be eventual decision-makers) to debate in July 2025 Petitions to “save X building/service” when we are months away from any firm proposals. Once firmer proposals are developed over the coming months I am confident that members will have further opportunity to scrutinise publicly.

Of course it is important that petitions are acknowledged, and my team will ensure that the Lead Petitioner(s) are informed that the Petition (i) will be processed as a consultation response; (ii) the consultation analysis will make it clear how many signatories signed the Petition; (iii) the decision-maker(s) will be apprised of the petition (and all other consultation responses) before they consider any final decisions.

Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards  
Monitoring Officer  
Leicester City Council

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**From:** Cllr Yogesh Chauhan <[Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Yogesh.Chauhan@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 30 June 2025 08:46  
**To:** Kamal Adatia <[Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Kamal.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** Cllr Hemant Rae Bhatia <[Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Hemant.RaeBhatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Shital Adatia <[Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Shital.Adatia@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Jaantilal Gopal <[Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Jaantilal.Gopal@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Bhupen Dave <[Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Bhupen.Dave@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Geeta Karavadra <[Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Geeta.Karavadra@leicester.gov.uk)>; Cllr Devi Singh Patel <[Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Devi.SinghPatel@leicester.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Urgent

Dear Kamal, Good morning,

I hope you are doing well.

Belgrave and Rushey Mead Ward submitted petitions against CAT of library and Community Centre to Julian in presence of member services well withing deadlines and received acknowledged receipt too.

However, I can't find information or agenda item in upcoming full council meeting. Am I missing something in paperwork in post?

Could you please assist me in clarify that our petition will be added to agenda item list and can be debate in the upcoming full council meeting.

Thank you

Cllr Chauhan  
Belgrave Ward