
**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 10 November 2016

Subject: Petition for Debate – Declare Manchester City Council a Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP) Free Zone

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Purpose of the report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the scrutiny committee of the details of the petition that asks the Council to declare Manchester City Council a TTIP Free Zone. The report also outlines the procedure for the Committee to debate this petition in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme.

Recommendation:

To agree recommendations on how to respond to the petition.

Wards Affected: All

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Background Documents:

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

Manchester City Council Petitions Scheme 2014

Introduction

1. This report sets out the details of a petition which asks the Council to Declare Manchester City Council a TTIP Free Zone. The report describes the requirements of the scrutiny committee under the petitions scheme and explains the process that can be followed by the Committee when considering the petition. The Committee is invited to make recommendations on how the Council should respond to the petition.

Petition: Declare Manchester City Council a TTIP Free Zone

2. The Council has received a petition over 1000 valid signatures. Signatures were gathered both online and on paper. The petition statement is below:

"We, the undersigned, petition the Council to Declare Manchester City Council a TTIP Free Zone by completing the actions described below.

More details from petitioner:

1. To write to the secretary of state for communities and local government, local MPs, and all North West MEPs raising our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP, CETA and TiSA on local authorities and the secrecy of the negotiating process.
2. To write to the local government association to raise our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP, CETA and TiSA on local authorities and ask them to raise these with government on our behalf.
3. To call for an impact assessment on the impact of TTIP, TiSA and CETA on local authorities.
4. To publicise the council's concerns about TTIP, CETA and TiSA by placing a public statement on their website and joining with other local authorities which are opposed to TTIP across Europe and work with local campaigners to raise awareness about the problems of TTIP and similar trade deals.
5. To contact the local authorities of municipalities twinned with Manchester City Council asking them to consider passing a similar motion on TTIP and similar trade deals."

Manchester City Council Petitions Scheme

- 3 The Council adopted a new petitions scheme on 26th November 2014 which sets out how the Council will deal with petitions that fall within the scheme. Copies of the scheme are available on request from the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit or online at www.manchester.gov.uk/petitions
4. The response to a petition is dependent on the number of valid signatures. As over 1000 valid signatures to this petition were received, the petition qualifies for a debate at a scrutiny committee.

5. The petition organiser has been invited to the scrutiny committee meeting to participate in the petition debate. The scheme sets out a process for scrutiny committees to follow when considering a petition. The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting. The relevant council officer or executive member will then be given 5 minutes to outline the Council's response to the petition. The committee will then discuss the petition for a maximum of 25 minutes, before making appropriate recommendations about how to respond to the petition. Any deviation from this format will be at the discretion of the committee.

Recommendations

6. At the end of the debate, the Committee will be able to make recommendations to the decision maker about how the Council should respond to the petition. When considering how to respond to the petition, the Committee should take account of the number of petition signatures, the representations made by the petition organisers and the responses from Council officers and the Executive Member. The Committee is invited to consider the following options:
 - a) Recommending that the decision maker take the action requested in the petition;
 - b) Noting the petition, and recommending that no action is taken;
 - c) Recommending to the decision maker that an alternative course of action is taken.

The Committee's recommendations will be reported to the decision maker for consideration.

Conclusion

The Committee's recommendations will be reported to the Council via the minutes of the scrutiny committee. After the committee meeting, the petition organiser will be provided with a copy of the committee's recommendations detailing any actions that the Council intends to take over the petition, and any follow up action.