

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 OCTOBER 2013

PETITIONS

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

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Summary

This report advises the Committee of the petitions presented at Council meetings, received by the council or sent via the e-petition facility, including a summary of officer's response to the petitioners.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The constitution provides that petitions received by the council relating to matters within the remit of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be referred immediately to the relevant Director for consideration at officer level.

2. Background

2.1 The Director is asked to respond to the petition request within 10 working days. The petition organiser may request to refer the matter to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee if s/he is not satisfied with the answer and has given reasons for their dissatisfaction.

2.2 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 5% of Medway's population (currently 12,675 signatures) it will be debated by Full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.

2.3 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 2% of Medway's population (currently 5,070 signatures) the relevant senior officer may give evidence at a public meeting of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.

- 2.4 A petition may also be submitted through the e-petition facility on the council's website. E-petitions must follow the same guidelines as paper petitions. A petition acknowledgement and response will be emailed to everyone who has signed the e-petition and elected to receive this information.
- 2.5 A summary of the response to all petitions will also be published on the council's website.

3. Petitions

- 3.1 A summary of responses relevant to this Committee that have passed the ten day deadline for a request for referral to the Committee and are therefore seen as acceptable to the petitioners are set out below.

Subject of petition	Date of receipt and whether paper or e-petition	Response
The proposed alteration to the 156 bus service.	31 July Paper	The decision to change the 156 bus service was taken in order to improve the majority of the service by providing a regular Monday to Saturday service, instead of the daily variations which do little to encourage the use of the service. All services provided by the council have to be scrutinised to ensure that they are delivering value for money.
The bus shelter directly outside Woodlands Academy should be relocated back to its original position.	31 July E-petition	The Council's Integrated Transport and Road Safety teams investigated the bus stop last year. The stop does not have a poor safety record that would justify the cost of moving the shelter. Since October 2012 there have been no reports of any personal injuries, incidents or accidents to Kent Police. In October 2012 the Council met with the headteacher at the

		<p>schools request to ascertain whether the bus stop could be moved if the school could fund the work. Unfortunately due to the schools funding shortfall this could not proceed. It would cost in the region of £5,000 to move the bus stop. There are currently other bus stops in Medway that have a higher priority.</p> <p>(Note) Although the lead petitioner has not requested referral to this committee, they are in further correspondence with the Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture and have asked for a site visit.</p>
Request for speed restrictions and traffic calming measures in Gillingham Road, Gillingham	14 August E-Petition	An engineer has reviewed the road traffic crash data for this section of Gillingham Road and there has only been one slight personal injury accident in the last three years. At the current time there are other roads in Medway with a higher priority for action than Gillingham Road, however the Road Safety Team will continue to monitor the situation.

4 Risk Management

- 4.1 The Council has a clear scheme for handling petitions set out in its Constitution. This ensures consistency and clarity of process, minimising the risk of complaints about the administration of petitions.

5 Financial and Legal Implications

- 5.1 Any financial and/or legal implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions.

6 Recommendation

- 6.1 Members are requested to note the petition responses and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report.

Background papers

None.

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