

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 DECEMBER 2013

PETITIONS

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

Author: Daniel Kalley, Democratic Services Officer

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
Medway Council to carry out a full Community Impact Study before spending £4.4 million on Rochester Airport	17 October 2013 Paper	<p>At this stage the Council will not commit to any expenditure on the improvements to the airport's infrastructure. The Masterplan has not yet been adopted by the Council and the new 25 year lease has not been agreed with the airport operator.</p> <p>Improvement works to the airport cannot be carried out until planning consent has been granted and the Civil Aviation Authority's approval has been obtained. Given these processes, it is not considered appropriate to arrange for a Community Impact Study</p>
Petition on behalf of the residents of Hutsford Close, Parkwood, Rainham with regards to the unacceptable state of the pavements	18 October 2013 Paper	<p>The last programmed inspection of Hutsford Close took place on 20 May 2013. Only one area was identified for repair, which was completed on 25 June 2013.</p> <p>A Highway Inspector attended the site following a further enquiry and no safety defects were identified except one small</p>

		dip in the pavement. The customer declined this to be fixed and requested the whole pavement be resurfaced. This was referred to the maintenance team who inspected the site on 22 October 2013 and found no defects in the road.
Ensuring the safety of our children when they use the facilities of Goddington Park.	6 November 2013 E-petition	The Council's Ranger Services visits the park regularly and no safety issues have been highlighted to date requiring extra railing be installed.
Petition for Everest Lane being made safer by either one way with width restrictions or with speed bumps.	18 November 2013 Paper	The request has been noted and a speed and volume survey will be carried out to investigate what type of scheme is possible on this road in the Strood North Ward.

4. Parking Permit Zones

- 4.1 The Assistant Director, Frontline Services has agreed to provide the Committee with a verbal update on the work carried out by the informal Members working group that looked into Parking Permit Zones in Chatham, this was agreed following the petition presented to the Committee at the 11 April 2013 meeting.

5. Risk Management

- 5.1 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.

6. Financial and Legal Implications

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

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the petition responses and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report.
- 7.2 Members are requested to note the update on Parking Permit Zones carried out by the Members informal working group.

Background papers

None.

Contact for further details:

Daniel Kalley, Democratic Services Officer

Tel. No: 01634 332013 Email: daniel.kalley@medway.gov.uk