

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 OCTOBER 2014

PETITIONS

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director Regeneration, Community & Culture

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Summary

To advise the Committee of the petitions presented to the Mayor at the Council and direct to Medway Council including a summary of officer's response to the petitioners together with the petitions received on the council's e-petitions facility.

1. Budget and policy framework

- 1.1 The constitution provides that petitions presented at Council meetings or received via the council's e-petition facility 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, unless a stated amount of signatures have been collected to trigger the calling of an officer to give evidence (5,070 signatures) or a debate at Full Council (12, 675 signatures).
- 1.2 The petition scheme is set out in full in the council's constitution at: <http://www.medway.gov.uk/councilanddemocracy/council/petitions.aspx>
- 1.3 Any budget framework implications will be set out in the specific petition response.

2. Background

- 2.1 The revised constitution provides that eligible petitions presented at Council meetings or received via the council's e-petition facility 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.
- 2.2 Where the Director is able to fully meet the request of the petitioners a response is sent of the proposed action and timescales for implementation. 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.

- 2.3 For petitions where the Director is unable to meet the request of petitioners or where there are a range of alternative responses the petition will be referred to the next relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for discussion.

3 Completed petitions

- 3.1 A summary of responses relevant to this Committee that have been accepted by the petitioners are set out below.

Subject of petition	Response
Adoption by the Council of all Medway Gate Roads	At Medway Gate, Persimmon Homes Development has been split into 5 phases via the planning process, each phase requiring a Section 38 Legal Agreement to be signed by all parties – Persimmon Homes and Medway Council. Once the agreements are signed and in place and all associated works to the agreements have been completed via the customary site walkover to “snag” the works, a certificate no. 2 can be issued to start the 12 month maintenance period. During this period any defects that occur, such as at present the Enabling Road collapse, will be put right entirely by the developer at their cost. On completion of the maintenance period and after another site walkover, if the Council is satisfied that all the associated works have been completed, including any Land Transfers, and that the development has carried out their obligation to the agreements, final adoption can then take place. Up to “final” adoption, the whole development will remain private and the timescale for this rests solely with the developer to fulfil all the above conditions.

4 Petitions referred to this Committee

- 4.1 A petition regarding “A Request to Review Speed Restrictions in Watling Street, Strood to (i) 30mph and (ii) to install other traffic mitigation measures” was received by the Council on 4 August 2014. A response from the Director Regeneration, Community and Culture was sent to the lead petitioner on 19 August 2014. The petition has been referred to the Committee, as the lead petitioner has indicated that he is dissatisfied with the response received from the directorate.
- 4.2 However, the Assistant Director Frontline Services has advised that a traffic survey has to be undertaken at a time of normal traffic usage. Therefore the survey is likely to be done sometime after Christmas as there are currently major road works in Strood in the locality of Darnley Road/Cuxton Road which are altering the traffic flow in and around

Strood and there is also the oncoming Christmas shopping period during which traffic patterns are not considered to be normal. Therefore the petitioner has agreed that the petition be referred to a meeting of the Committee after the traffic survey has been undertaken and the results are available for consideration.

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 response and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report.

Background papers

None

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