

## **REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**19 OCTOBER 2017**

### **PETITIONS**

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director, Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation

Author: Steve Platt, Democratic Services Officer

#### **Summary**

To advise the Committee of any petitions received by the Council which fall within the remit of this Committee including a summary of the response sent to the petition organisers by officers.

#### **1. Budget and policy framework**

- 1.1 In summary, the Council's Petition Scheme requires the relevant Director to respond to the petition organiser, usually within 10 working days of the receipt of the petition by the Council. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are always advised of any petitions falling within their terms of reference together with the officer response. There is a right of referral of a petition for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the petitioners if they consider the Director's response to be inadequate. Should the Committee determine that the petition has not been dealt with adequately it may use any of its powers to deal with the matter. These powers include instigating an investigation, making recommendations to Cabinet and arranging for the matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council.
- 1.2 The petition scheme is set out in full in the Council's Constitution at: <http://www.medway.gov.uk/pdf/4.01%20-Council%20rules.pdf>
- 1.3 Any budget or policy framework implications will be set out in the specific petition response.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Council's 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.

- 2.2 Where the Director is able to fully meet the request of the petitioners a response is sent setting out the proposed action and timescales for implementation.
- 2.3 For petitions where the petition organiser is not satisfied with the response provided by the Director there is provision for the petition organiser to request that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the steps the Council has taken, or is proposing to take, in response to the petition.

### 3 Completed petitions

- 3.1 A summary of the response to a petition relevant to this Committee that has been accepted by the petition organiser is set out below.

Subject of petition	Response
<p>Restrict parking in Cherry Amber Close between 7am and 10am by placing a single yellow line on the road surface from the junction of Cherry Tree Road to the full extent of Cherry Amber Close.</p> <p>14 signatures</p>	<p>Taking into account the large public consultation recently carried out in North Rainham, it is proposed that officers and Ward Councillors meet to agree a way forward for the North area first, as this may give a more strategic view which can be considered for South Rainham and a future public consultation when resources are available. This consultation would not only take into account your request, but other requests received from a number of other roads in the South Rainham area.</p> <p>N.B. After further discussions it was subsequently agreed to carry out the requested works.</p>

### 4. Petition not yet concluded

- 4.1 A response has been sent to the lead petitioner for the following petition. If a request to refer this petition to this Committee is received in line with the Council's petitions scheme, it will be referred to the next meeting.

Subject of petition	Response
<p>Change parking arrangements in Medway as :</p> <p>1. The current parking arrangements are unjust and unfair as many roads in Medway are exempt. This</p>	<p>Resident controlled parking zones are implemented in areas where parking is at a premium, usually near main attractors such as rail stations, universities, health centres, hospitals etc. Visitors will of course always try to locate free or convenient parking within close proximity to these sites. This does have a negative impact on the local residents</p>

<b>Subject of petition</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>cannot be justified.</p> <p>2. There should be (if really necessary) only one payment per household, not each individual in the household.</p> <p>3. There should be an online set up so that residents do not have to demean themselves with bi/tri monthly trips to the local library in order to buy further tickets for visitors.</p> <p>4. These tickets should run for 24 hours from the time they are placed in the car not otherwise.</p> <p>5. It should be possible to park without paying.</p> <p>17 signatures</p>	<p>as they then struggle to find available parking to enable them to park close to their homes.</p> <p>Prior to a parking scheme being implemented it is a statutory requirement to carry out a full consultation process, and the majority view of the public consultation is taken into account.</p> <p>Taking each point in your petition in turn:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Controlled parking zones are installed at the request of residents where there is a major attractor, with the prime objective to give residents a fairer chance of parking close to their residence.</li> <li>2. Controlled zones when installed must cover the cost for installation and maintenance, as well as ongoing monitoring/enforcement costs. There is an annual visitor permit available which can be used in any vehicle, and can therefore be transferred between cars. If a resident wishes to have a permit attached to a specific vehicle they would need to purchase a resident permit, and payments for the scheme are linked to vehicles and not individuals.</li> <li>3. On line / virtual permits are due to go live later this year, and more details will follow on the Council's website as this is rolled out.</li> <li>4. Times for controlled parking zones are very much dictated by the main attractor and follow the public consultation.</li> <li>5. Enforcement for all restrictions is ongoing, with patrols between 7.00am and 1.00am (18 hours in a 24 hour period) seven days a week.</li> </ol> <p>I fully appreciate how parking can be an emotive issue, and I can confirm that due to major attractors within the local area, Marlborough Road and the surrounding streets would be classified as a prime location for non-residents to park. Without</p>

Subject of petition	Response
	the parking scheme that is currently in place, the local residents would have great difficulty finding available parking and this would cause additional frustration.

## 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 implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions.
- 6.2 Overview and Scrutiny Rule 21.1 (xiv) in the Council's Constitution provides that the terms of reference of this Committee include the power to deal with petitions referred to the Committee under and in accordance with the Council's petition scheme.

## 7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Committee is requested to note the petition responses and appropriate officer actions in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report.

### Lead officer contact

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### Appendices:

None

### Background papers:

None