

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

**23 JANUARY 2018**

### **PETITIONS**

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

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 Petition not yet concluded**

- 3.1 A response has been sent to the lead petitioner for the following petition. If a request to refer a petition to this Committee is received, it will be referred to the next meeting.

<b>Subject of petition</b>	<b>Summary of response</b>
<p>Stop the planned overnight, control permit parking 6pm to 8am, Monday – Sunday. Costing £28 per car per year and £1.00 visitors’ permit per visit. Proposed Controlled Parking Zone, Strood North, Zone S2.</p> <p>75 signatures</p>	<p>This petition and all other comments received during the public consultation period 30 November 2017 – 20 December 2017 for the Strood North area consultation will be taken into account as part of the consultation response report. Following a decision based on the response report, a further letter will be sent to all residents in the area.</p>

**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 implications arising from the issues raised by the petition are set out in the comments on the petitions.
- 5.2 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.

**6. Recommendation**

- 6.1 The Committee is requested to note the petition response and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report.

**Lead officer contact**

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**Appendices:**

None

**Background papers:**

None