

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

**6 DECEMBER 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:

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2657/401 - council rules>

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 petitions relevant to this Committee that have been accepted by the petition organisers are set out below.

<b>Subject of petition</b>	<b>Summary of Response</b>
<p>Review the chicane layout and design a suitable road layout for the future - Lower Rainham Road.</p> <p>72 signatories</p>	<p>Over time users of this road have expressed concern about disruption to the free flow of traffic that the priority working arrangement causes and also about vehicles speeding through it. There has been consultation on proposals to remove the build-outs, widen the carriageway to allow two-way traffic, keep the 20mph speed limit and install two new speed cushions. Concerns were expressed that this would generate additional traffic and increased speed. There was also concern that removing the pinch point would cause problems for residents leaving their driveways.</p> <p>Following a discussion with the Ward Members, the proposal was not implemented but the Council is monitoring the situation and reviewing the existing speed limits.</p>
<p>Repair the CCTV in Gillingham High Street</p> <p>137 signatories</p>	<p>As a priority, the Council is reviewing CCTV in Medway to ascertain whether cameras remain necessary and proportionate in line with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice. The first phase of the review will identify the key locations where cameras are not working and will seek to move working cameras to those areas from areas where they are no longer required. The second phase of the review will be a long term programme of removing cameras no longer required, and identifying any new requirements.</p>

#### 4. Petition not yet concluded:

Subject of petition	Summary of Response
<p>Extend parking restrictions in Walderslade Village from 1 hour to 2 hours limited wait.</p> <p>397 signatures (e-petition) and 340 signatures (paper petition), 74 of which were discounted due to missing information.</p>	<p>The proposal has been considered and unfortunately, it will not be possible to extend the waiting restrictions as you have requested. A review has been carried out of the shops adjacent to the parking bays in question and there would be no benefit to shoppers who are unlikely to need more than an hour for each visit. Indeed, there may be an adverse consequence of the bays being used by non-shoppers/staff from neighbouring businesses if they have longer to park up.</p> <p>Note: The petition organiser subsequently requested that the matter be reviewed by the Committee. A meeting between the petition organiser, the Assistant Director Front Line Services and Ward Councillors is currently being arranged. If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the petition organiser, the petition will be referred to the next meeting of the Committee.</p>

#### 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 will be taken into account as part of the review of these matters.
- 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. Recommendations

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

**Lead officer contact**

Steve Platt, Democratic Services Officer, (01634) 332011  
[stephen.platt@medway.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.platt@medway.gov.uk)

**Appendices:**

None

**Background papers:**

None