

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

**13 AUGUST 2020**

### **PETITIONS**

Report from: Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive

Author: Steve Platt, Democratic Services Officer

#### Summary

This report advises the Committee of a petition received by the Council which falls within the remit of this Committee including a summary of the response sent to the petition organiser 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 Petition not yet concluded

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

| <b>Subject of petition</b>                                                                | <b>Summary of response</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Re-instate vehicle access way between 71 – 73 Sunnymead Avenue, ME7<br><br>106 signatures | The gates in question were installed some time ago using the Cleaner Neighbourhood and Environment Act at the request of the residents to prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB).<br><br>This current issue first came to the Council's attention earlier this year when the resident of no 73 was concerned about the escalation of ASB in the area in question.<br><br>It is understood that the resident wrote to all residents affected, advising them of what they wanted to do and the reasons why. The Council has been working to find a solution since then and recently instructed its contractor to carry out some remedial works on the gate to help allay these fears, with access to the gates being restored in the immediate future. The lock will be refitted to the gates by Medway Council, to which all residents affected already have a key. This will ensure everyone with a key will have equal access. |

#### 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 The works referred to in the report were carried out within existing budgets.
- 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

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

#### Appendices

None

#### Background papers

None