

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 DECEMBER 2020

PETITIONS

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive

Author: Stephen 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. Completed Petition

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

Subject of petition	Summary of response
<p>Petition for the re-opening of the Cuxton Waste and Recycling Centre with immediate effect.</p> <p>(E-petition containing 587 names)</p>	<p>The decision to keep the Cuxton site closed in the early phases of reopening the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) network was due to the challenges this site presents us with queuing traffic and the impact it has on the residents of Cuxton, the A228 and the M2.</p> <p>The Cuxton HWRC reopened by pre-appointment on 8 October 2020. To ensure we can manage the traffic flow to the site we have put in place new one-hour appointment slots giving us much greater control over any queuing outside the site.</p> <p>We look forward to welcoming residents back to the Cuxton site.</p>

4. Petitions Referred to this Committee

- 4.1 The following petitions have been referred to this Committee because the petition organisers indicated that they were dissatisfied with the response received from the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive. They will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 14 January 2021.
- Petition to address issues relating to Domino Pizza, Walderslade.
 - Petition for the installation of a warden operated gating system at the access in Cozenton Park from Cranford Close.

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 paragraph 3 of the report.

Lead Officer Contact

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

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None