

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 AUGUST 2023

PETITIONS

Report from: Adam Bryan, Director of Place

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Summary

This report advises the Committee of petitions received by the Council which fall within the remit of this Committee including a summary of the responses sent to the petition organisers by officers.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. The Committee is requested to note the petition responses and appropriate officer actions in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. The petition scheme is set out in full in the Council's Constitution at [Council rules.](#)
- 2.3. Any budget or policy framework implications will be set out in the specific petition response.

3. Background

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. 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.

4. Completed Petitions

- 4.1. The response to petitions relevant to this Committee that has been accepted by the petition organiser are set out below.

Subject of petition	Medway Council's response
We the undersigned petition Medway Council to introduce double yellow lines at the junction of Cavendish Road and Cecil Road, Rochester.	The Council has considered your request to introduce double yellow lines at the junction of Cavendish Road and Cecil Road and has added it to the work programme for 2023/24.
The Council to resurface the road on Elm Avenue and Broadwood Road, Chattenden	When considering a road for resurfacing an inspection is undertaken and priority 1 roads are automatically selected for resurfacing. Elm Avenue and Broadwood Road were assessed as a Priority 2, unfortunately this means both roads would not be considered for resurfacing. An annual inspection regime is in place and will respond to any defects that arise throughout the year and arrange repairs as necessary. The Council has previously raised the issue of the leak referenced in your petition with Southern Water who are investigating the issue and are due to be on site on 31 July. The delay is due to Southern Water arranging for a road closure to undertake the works. The

Subject of petition	Medway Council's response
	Council will continue to press Southern Water for a resolution to this issue.
The Council to provide a zebra pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Pump Lane at the junction with Beechings Way, Rainham.	<p>The Council recognises the importance of making our roads as safe as possible and we appreciate this busy location requires pedestrians to take great care when crossing the road.</p> <p>Safety engineers will undertake a review of the location including a survey of pedestrian and vehicle movements and an assessment of existing highway conditions, layout and infrastructure.</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 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. Actions referred to in the officer responses which are not within existing budgets, and any further activity, would require Cabinet and Council approval for budgetary additions if funding was available.

7. Legal implication

- 7.1. 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.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None