

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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PETITIONS

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

Author: Caroline Salisbury, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Summary

This report advises the Committee of the petitions presented at Council meetings, received by the council or sent via the e-petition facility, including a summary of officer's response to the petitioners.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The 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. Background

2.1 The Director is asked to respond to the petition request within 10 working days. The petition organiser may request to refer the matter to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee if s/he is not satisfied with the answer and has given reasons for their dissatisfaction.

2.2 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 5% of Medway's population (currently 12,675 signatures) it will be debated by Full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.

2.3 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 2% of Medway's population (currently 5,070 signatures) the relevant senior officer may give evidence at a public meeting of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.

2.4 A petition may also be submitted through the e-petition facility on the council's website. E-petitions must follow the same guidelines as paper petitions. A petition acknowledgement and response will be emailed to everyone who has signed the e-petition and elected to receive this information.

2.5 A summary of the response to all petitions will also be published on the council's website.

3. Petitions

3.1 A summary of responses relevant to this Committee that have passed the ten day deadline for a request for referral to the Committee and are therefore seen as acceptable to the petitioners are set out below.

Subject of petition	Date of receipt and whether paper or e-petition	Response
Request for salt box near school	Paper Presented at Council on 07/01/11 by Councillor Baker	Petition refused as not in accordance with guidelines set in Constitution. However, officers were contacted about the request and it has been dealt with separately.
Speed restrictions and traffic calming measures in Palmerston Road, Chatham	Paper 18/01/11	It is not possible at this time due to other locations with a higher priority.
Petition against planning application	Paper 24/01/11	Acknowledged and referred to Development Control
Petition against planning application	Paper 26/01/11	Acknowledged and referred to Development Control
Petition against planning application	Paper 26/01/11	Acknowledged and referred to Development Control
Request for grit box at The Mailyns, Rainham	Paper 31/01/11	The Winter Service Policy does not include the provision of salt bins for footpaths (apart from a few exceptions around shopping parades). They are only for use for highway purposes.

4 Petitions referred to this committee

4.1 No petitions have been referred to the Committee for consideration.

5 Risk Management

5.1 The Council's petition scheme has been drafted in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 relating to petitions. This will minimise the risk of any challenge to the legitimacy of the Council's arrangements for handling petitions.

6 Financial and Legal Implications

6.1 Any financial and/or legal implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions.

7 Recommendation

7.1 Members are requested to note the petition response and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report.

Background papers

Medway Council's Constitution
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

Contact for further details:

Caroline Salisbury, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Tel. No: 01634 332013 Email: caroline.salisbury@medway.gov.uk