

# **Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**10 October 2024**

## **Petitions Report**

Report from: Adam Bryan, Director of Place

Author: Steve Dickens, Democratic Services Officer

### **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, with no request for referral to this Committee, are set out below.

<b>Subject of petition</b>	<b>Summary of Medway Council's response</b>
The Council to provide wheelie bins for recyclable and general waste instead of refuse bags.	<p>Medway Council is commissioning a waste strategy to identify and appraise options for waste collection and disposal in Medway. An important part of the waste strategy review and recommendations will be engaging with Medway residents to understand their priorities. The waste strategy will include a review of waste containers, and this petition will be included in the research.</p> <p>Due to the old Victorian-style terraced houses, hillside and long alleyway collections, there are a significant number of households in Medway that are not suitable for wheeled bins or can only support one wheeled bin. In 2010 the decision was made that the garden and food waste service would be the only wheeled bin collection as this would offer the best containment for the food waste items that attract animal attack</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 implications

- 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.

### Lead officer contact

Steve Dickens Democratic Services Officer,  
Telephone: 01634 332051 E-mail: [steve.dickens@medway.gov.uk](mailto:steve.dickens@medway.gov.uk)

### Appendices

None

### Background papers

None