

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 December 2024

Petitions Report

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

Subject of petition	Summary of Medway Council's response
Opposition to School Streets Scheme at Fairview Community Primary School, Wigmore	<p>A public consultation for the introduction of a further nine School Streets across Medway, including the one on Drewery Drive, ran from 16 September 2024 until 27 October 2024.</p> <p>This forms part of the Council's commitment to making the streets outside of its schools safer and healthier for children and the wider school community. A School Street is a road outside a school that has temporary vehicle restrictions at drop-off and pick-up times during the school term. The road becomes a pedestrian and cycle only area during these times, except for those permitted with an exemption, including the households located within the School Street zone. The restrictions are not in place during school holidays or weekends.</p> <p>All feedback gathered during the six-week School Streets consultation, including this petition, will be reviewed in conjunction with the Council's overall assessment, prior to any further decision being made.</p>
The Council to implement speed bumps and traffic calming measures on Parr Avenue, Knight Avenue and	<p>The safety history of the roads that you have requested has been investigated. In the last three years of available police records, one injury collision has been recorded throughout the above roads.</p>

Corporation Road, Gillingham	<p>The Council works to support safe road use and prioritises safety interventions to help reduce and prevent harm on the highway. It is important that this done in an evidence based way, making best use of the resources that are available.</p> <p>There are other locations within Medway that are currently recording poorer ongoing road safety problems. The Council's approach is to tackle those locations with poorest safety records in the first instance, to help prevent further casualties on our roads. The Council is therefore unable to progress the requested alterations at this time. Please rest assured the safety record of this location will continue to be monitored.</p>
The Council to reduce the speed limit on Sharnal Street, High Halstow, from 40mph to 30mph.	<p>The Council's road safety engineers and officers will undertake a review of the speed limit at this location. This will take into account a number of factors, which will include the existing traffic flows, speeds, and local safety record. The Transport and Parking team will update the lead petitioner on this matter by April of next year.</p>
The Council to amend the CPZ for Providence Avenue, Rochester ME1 1NF from "R1 permit holders or 2 hours no return within 1 hour" to "R1 permit holders only at any time".	<p>The Controlled Parking Zone for Rochester Riverside was introduced to ensure that the amenity of residents was not detrimentally affected by non-residents parking on-street for long periods of time to visit central Rochester or commute further afield. At the same time, the strategic vision for Rochester Riverside was to create a place where residents and visitors can enjoy high quality public realm, including the river walk and other open spaces across the development. When designing the parking zone, the Council felt that a blanket restriction across the whole area was not appropriate and worked with the developer to incorporate some flexible parking provision for the benefit of residents and visitors. The Council believes that a permit holder only restriction on every street may sterilise and isolate the area, whereas allowing a relatively short period of free parking at some locations encourages footfall and opens the area up for the enjoyment of everyone.</p> <p>For this reason, the Council does not propose to change the parking controls for Providence Avenue at the present time.</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

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None