

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 January 2025

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
The Council to open Dale Street, Chatham at the end of Hill's Terrace to make Hill's Terrace, a one-way system. In addition to creating extra parking or other options for parents to be able to collect their children safely from Saint Michael's RC Primary School.	<p>The Council continually works to promote safe and sustainable journeys, particularly as part of the journey to school. It is important the Council, as the highway authority, appropriately looks into the feasibility of what is being requested.</p> <p>Changing roads to allow new movements can alter the way the road network is used, this can result in improved operation, but there can also be other impacts, such as increasing the likelihood of conflicts and collisions nearby. It is also important to consider the realistic prospect of being able to secure funding for such changes.</p> <p>The Council will include initial investigations into what the lead petitioner has requested to the Transport and Parking Department's programme for the next financial year.</p> <p>Council officers will contact the lead petitioner during the next financial year to update them in relation to the request.</p>
The Council to create a pedestrian crossing at Walderslade Road and Magpie Hall Road, Chatham	The Council takes road safety very seriously and investigates any instances where concerns regarding road safety are brought to our attention and monitor collision records, supplied by Kent Police, in order that we can work to target and reduce people being harmed whilst travelling on Medway's roads. This includes examining pedestrian crossing facilities and pedestrian movements to see where improvements can be made.

	<p>The Council's Transport & Parking Service have looked into the request in more detail and can confirm that there is already a pedestrian refuge island crossing point located on Walderslade Road, in close proximity to the junction of the Ridgeway and Magpie Hall Road. This crossing point allows for easy access from the south side of Walderslade Road, heading north along Magpie Hall Road towards Victory Academy. This crossing point is also well used and the area around the crossing point has a very good safety record.</p> <p>In terms of the request for a push button pedestrian crossing or zebra crossing, it would be very difficult to install one at this location given its complexity and the roads which converge at this point. The Council will also need to prioritise its limited budget on making improvements at locations which have an existing record of accidents or incidents. As this location has a good safety record, and the crossing point mentioned is used frequently without incident, the Council would not be about to justify investment here for a new crossing over investment in other areas that have a much greater need for a change to the highway.</p> <p>However, please rest assured that the safety record of this location will continue to be monitored.</p>
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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.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None