

Regeneration, Culture and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 June 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 remove the bus/taxi/cycle restriction on Strood Riverside (Northern end of Canal Road) to allow all traffic through in both directions.	<p>One of the ambitions of the Council Bus Service Improvement Plan is to have a modern, sustainable, reliable and accessible public transport network. Part of this work involves enabling buses to move freely and efficiently throughout Medway and supported by bus priority measures.</p> <p>In line with the Council's aim to improve public transport in Medway, there are nine bus priority lanes in operation across Medway, including Canal Road in Strood. Bus lanes such as this help provide reliable alternative travel options.</p> <p>As well as serving as a bus priority lane, Canal Road forms part of the National Cycle network. Maintaining these functions are important and in line with our ambitions to promote and prioritise active modes of travel, including public transport.</p> <p>In practical terms, the current nature of the road allows for a non-motorised user- friendly environment adjacent to the riverside to be developed. The requested change in use to allow vehicles to use the road as a through route between the A2 and Medway City Estate would have a significant impact upon the function of the road, in addition to adverse noise and air quality impacts. There would also be question over available capacity, given that the width of the bus priority section only operates as a single lane, including the</p>

	<p>operation of the junction, without undue hindrance to the A2 mainline flow so the Council is unable to support this request on this occasion.</p> <p>The concerns around delays on the available routes serving Medway City Estate during peak travel periods are of course acknowledged. The Council has previously secured investment to improve journey times at Medway City Estate and delivered capacity improvements at the junction with the A289. The Council will continue to address such capacity challenges.</p>
<p>The council address the traffic problems on Gerrard Avenue caused by congestion on Pattens Lane, by introducing traffic calming measures or limiting access to Gerrard Avenue to residents only.</p>	<p>The Council takes all road safety matters seriously and works to promote safe road use and address safety concerns wherever possible.</p> <p>There have been several periods of roadworks on the local main road network near Gerrard Avenue in recent months, including on Walderslade Road, City Way, and Maidstone Road. It is likely that delays from these may have been a factor in contributing to increases in traffic using alternative routes, such as Gerrard Avenue.</p> <p>The Council is committed to targeting and reducing people being harmed whilst travelling on our roads. As part of this the Council continually monitors the reported personal injury collision records, we receive from the Police. This helps us to prioritise the resources available to ensure that we tackle those locations suffering ongoing poor road safety records as soon as possible. The records show that Gerrard Avenue has a very good safety record when compared to other locations within Medway, with no reported collisions having occurred there in the latest available 5-year period. Regrettably, this will mean that it is unlikely to receive a high priority for safety alterations at the current time.</p> <p>It is noted that traffic using Gerrard Avenue is currently subject to a 30mph speed restriction. If the public feel that speeding is an ongoing issue, they may wish to consider engaging with the Police, who are responsible for the enforcement of this restriction.</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