

## **Regeneration, Culture and Environment**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**14 August 2025**

### **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.

Subject of petition	Summary of Medway Council's response
The Council to introduce a 20mph zone in the area of Central Strood	<p>Medway Council works to promote and improve road safety wherever possible, and we are committed to reducing and preventing casualties on our roads. It is of course recognised that speed limits form an important part of the highway and how it is used. It is also important that speed limits should be evidence led and take into account the relevant local factors.</p> <p>In order to appropriately consider the request, the Council's Transport Service will undertake a review of the speed limit throughout the area requested. This will take into account a number of factors, including, the existing traffic flows, speeds, local safety record, and current speed limit policy. This piece of work will be added to the relevant Transport project programme for 2025/26.</p>

### 5. Petition not yet concluded

- 5.1. A response has been sent to the petition organiser for the following petition. The lead petitioner has indicated they are dissatisfied with the response and the petition may be referred to this Committee, however, at time of writing the lead petitioner and Council are in discussion regarding potential solutions which would be to the satisfaction of all parties. Consequently, a review by this Committee is held in abeyance until the outcome of those discussions is known.

Subject of petition	Summary of Medway Council's response
<p>Objection to the removal of the protective wall separating the green in front of Lordswood and Slade Close, Chatham, from the busy main road.</p>	<p>The properties situated behind the wall are uniquely positioned; separated from the adjacent highway and benefitting from an enclosed open space which has been utilised by the properties surrounding it. The Council acknowledges that children and residents have enjoyed using the open greenspace area as a safety barrier and acknowledge concerns about toys such as footballs rolling onto the road; a challenge faced by many parents living adjacent to roads who have children outside their properties.</p> <p>The Council has listened to those concerns and to mitigate this, will explore installing a mesh at the base of the proposed replacement system to prevent items from entering the road.</p> <p>The Council has carried out a full safety assessment along with a Local Roads Risk assessment. The safety assessment of the wall has deemed it beyond economic repair and the Local Roads Risk Assessment classifies the area as a low priority; in accordance with the Design &amp; Maintenance for Local Authority Roads – Provision of Road Restraint Systems on Local Authority Roads. The wall does not meet the specification to be classed as a Vehicle Restraint System (VRS), which means it is incapable of preventing a vehicle passing through it in the event of an incident. This is evidenced by the 2 rebuilt sections where cars have crashed through the wall. With VRS, any vehicle that would strike it will not be able to pass through or send any debris into passing pedestrians or anyone using the greenspace area fronting the properties behind the wall.</p> <p>The Council priority is to ensure the safety of the community. Removing the wall and installing a VRS system will provide better protection for everyone, and the Council remains committed to maintaining community safety and ensuring that the greenspace remains a safe and enjoyable area for all residents.</p>

## 6. Risk management

- 6.1. 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.

## 7. Financial implications

- 7.1. 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.

## 8. Legal implications

- 8.1. 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