

Regeneration Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 December 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. Recommendation

- 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
Make Cozenton Park Skatepark, Rainham, bigger	<p>The Council appreciates the passion and engagement shown by the community, particularly on behalf of our young residents, in advocating for improved recreational spaces.</p> <p>The skatepark is a well-used and valued facility, and the Council is pleased to see it playing such a positive role in promoting active lifestyles and social interaction.</p> <p>The Council is pleased to be able to inform you that through identified contributions from local developers it will be able to investigate an extension to the current skatepark and will shortly be appointing a skatepark specialist to consult, and design plans.</p> <p>The Council remains committed to supporting youth activities and will continue to explore other opportunities to enhance recreational provision across Medway. The Council encourages users of the skatepark to continue sharing feedback, which helps us shape future plans and ensure facilities remain safe, inclusive, and enjoyable.</p>
Introduce a 20mph zone in Mill Road, Strood	<p>Medway Council is committed to improving safety across our road network and welcomes feedback from residents. The Council has reviewed the personal injury collision data for Mill Road. Over the past three years, one personal injury collision has been recorded on Mill Road. While any</p>

	<p>incident is regrettable, this record does not currently place Mill Road among the higher priority locations for safety intervention.</p> <p>We acknowledge, however, that collision data alone does not always reflect the full picture of community concern. The presence of vulnerable road users, such as schoolchildren and other vulnerable users, is an important consideration. Following review, we propose erecting suitable warning signing and SLOW road markings in suitable positions to highlight the presence of the school and its pupils within Mill Road. We would seek to go ahead erect signing and place road markings in due course.</p> <p>Furthermore, we are currently developing a Road Safety Plan which we anticipate will include a longer-term speed management strategy throughout Medway.</p> <p>The Council is currently investigating a request for reduced speed restrictions over a larger neighbouring area within Strood. Whilst it is too early to comment on any potential outcomes, such investigations will help inform the outlook for any speed management measures within the local area.</p>
<p>Installation of Speed Bumps on Goddington Road, Strood</p>	<p>Medway Council takes road safety very seriously and we investigate any instances where concerns regarding road safety are brought to our attention. We regularly review personal injury collision data provided by Kent Police. To make the best use of the limited funding available, we must, however, prioritise those locations with poorer safety records first.</p> <p>Following an initial review of the collision history at Goddington Road, we note that this location has not recorded any personal injury collisions over the past three years. This means that it is unlikely to receive a high priority for road safety alterations, such as traffic calming measures at this time.</p> <p>The Council recognises the important role that effective speed management has in creating a road environment that is fit for purpose and supports all road users traveling safely, particularly within urban areas. The Council are currently developing a Road Safety Plan which we anticipate will include a longer-term speed management strategy throughout Medway.</p> <p>The Council is currently investigating a request for reduced speed restrictions over a larger neighbouring area within Strood. Whilst it is too early to comment on any potential</p>

	outcomes, such investigations will help inform the outlook for any speed management measures within the local area.
Lower Stoke Car Park, Lower Stoke	<p>Medway Council is in an extremely difficult financial position and has undertaken a property review to identify surplus non-operational property assets, which can be disposed of to reduce debt, and contribute to Medway's longer- term financial sustainability.</p> <p>the Council's Cabinet on 11 March 2025 agreed that the Lower Stoke car park was declared surplus and delegated authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Corporate Landlord Board (CLB), to dispose of the property, to obtain the best consideration reasonably obtainable thereby complying with its obligations under s123 of the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>Medway Council has made it clear that it needs to sell the property for its market value, but that the Parish Council will be given the first opportunity to acquire the property before Medway Council even considers any wider marketing of the property. It was also agreed that if the Parish Council were to acquire the property, that the payments could be phased over a reasonable period, so that the Parish Council could raise the required funding.</p> <p>The Council intends to have the property valued by the Council's agent and valuer, before they open negotiations with the Parish Council.</p> <p>In the meantime, as the current lease of the car park expires in September, the Council has written to the parish council to set out the terms on which it is prepared to offer a new lease. The Council is awaiting a response, so a new lease can be in place September so the car park can continue to be used.</p> <p>It is hoped that a price and payment plan which is acceptable to both parties can be agreed, which will then allow the Parish Council to acquire the property, thus enabling the Parish Council to safeguard the car park in perpetuity, whilst generating a capital receipt for Medway Council, which will help to make the Council more financially sustainable.</p>

5. Petition not yet concluded

- 5.1. A holding response has been sent to the petition organiser for the following petitions. The relevant Council service will investigate and provide a full response to the lead petitioner in due course.

Subject of petition	Summary of Medway Council's response
Road Safety Stoke Road, the Ratcliffe Highway, and Avery Way, Allhallows	<p>The Council receives a significant number of requests for changes to the highway. The Transport Engineering Manager will; consider the request and this may include investigations into the area in question, an examination of accident data, site visits, amongst other things. An investigation process can take some time.</p> <p>The Transport and Parking Team will look into this in more detail and will contact the lead petitioner in due course.</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.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None