

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24 March 2026

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 |
|---|---|
| Medway Council to take action to address the Speeding Traffic on Lonsdale Drive, Rainham, Kent. | <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 help us identify and target locations where people are being harmed whilst travelling on Medway's roads. To make the best use of the limited funding available safety alterations, we must however prioritise those locations with poorer safety records first. Failure to do so would sadly mean that people would continue to be harmed on our roads.</p> <p>Following an initial review of the collision history, I can report that there have been 6 collisions resulting slight injury having occurred over its c.1.5km length during the latest three-year period for which records are currently available (up to the end of June 2025).</p> <p>There are currently many other locations suffering poorer safety records. Regrettably, this means that Lonsdale Drive is unlikely to receive a high priority for road safety alterations, such as traffic calming measures, at this time. There are also very strict rules on the use of safety (speed) cameras, and in consideration of this safety record, it would be difficult to justify siting one at this location</p> <p>However, we acknowledge that collision data alone does not always reflect the full picture of community concern, and</p> |

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| | <p>that the presence of vulnerable road users is an important consideration, and to this end, vehicle (speed) activated signs were installed in Lonsdale Road a number of years ago, to help to influence driver behaviour. Unfortunately, we were recently notified that these signs had malfunctioned, so arrangements were made for them to be repaired as a matter of urgency, and the signs are now working again. We also recognise the importance 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, and are currently developing a Road Safety Plan which we anticipate will include a longer-term speed management strategy throughout Medway.</p> |
| <p>Review safety and traffic at the Davis Estate Roundabout, Maidstone Road, Chatham</p> | <p>Thank you for your recent petition requesting that the Council reviews safety and traffic at the roundabout serving Shirley Avenue and Horsted Retail Park, at Maidstone Road, Chatham.</p> <p>The location has already been brought to the Council's attention. The Council has been monitoring this location and plans to undertake a review of traffic operation at this location and the potential for infrastructure changes to assist efficient operation.</p> <p>I can also share that the junction's current safety record indicates that it is performing well with very few injury collisions being reported. Enhancement have previously been mad at this location with the aim of limiting vehicle speeds and providing facilities for pedestrians. Hopefully these measures are assisting safe operation. Nevertheless, the Council is committed to seeking efficient operation of our highway network and providing safe and user friendly infrastructure for all. As above, we will therefore be undertaking a formal review of traffic operation and congestion at this location with the aim addressing unnecessary delay at the junction.</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.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None