

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 DECEMBER 2011

PETITIONS

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

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Summary

This report advises the Committee of the petitions presented at Council meetings, received by the council or sent via the e-petition facility, including a summary of officer's response to the petitioners.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The 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.

2. Background

2.1 The Director is asked to respond to the petition request within 10 working days. The petition organiser may request to refer the matter to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee if s/he is not satisfied with the answer and has given reasons for their dissatisfaction.

2.2 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 5% of Medway's population (currently 12,675 signatures) it will be debated by Full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.

2.3 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 2% of Medway's population (currently 5,070 signatures) the relevant senior officer may give evidence at a public meeting of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.

2.4 A petition may also be submitted through the e-petition facility on the council's website. E-petitions must follow the same guidelines as paper

petitions. A petition acknowledgement and response will be emailed to everyone who has signed the e-petition and elected to receive this information.

- 2.5 A summary of the response to all petitions will also be published on the council's website.

3. Petitions

- 3.1 A summary of responses relevant to this Committee that have passed the ten day deadline for a request for referral to the Committee and are therefore seen as acceptable to the petitioners are set out below.

Subject of petition	Date of receipt	Response
Request for a salt bin at the top of The beeches, Walderslade.	Council 20 October	Unfortunately, following assessment of this site, it does not meet the strict criteria for the placement of a salt bin.
Request for the re-surfacing of Woodlands Road/Grange Road because the surface has now deteriorated beyond repair.	Council 20 October	Following a site visit by the Inspection Engineer, a number of isolated areas were seen where the road surface and cracked and glazed means that this junction will be a high contender for re-surfacing works in 2012/2013.

4 Petitions referred to this committee

- 4.1 A petition was due to be referred to the committee for consideration as the lead petitioner had indicated that she was dissatisfied with the response received. The petition was about road safety in Church Street, Hoo St Werburgh. However, since the referral was received, the lead petitioner has agreed to meet with officers to discuss her concerns further.
- 4.2 The committee will be updated as to whether the petitioner is satisfied with any outcomes agreed with officers following the on-site meeting or, if she remains dis-satisfied, the matter will be referred to this committee for consideration on 31 January 2012.

5 Risk Management

- 5.1 The Council's petition scheme has been drafted in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 relating to petitions. This will minimise the risk of any challenge to the legitimacy of the Council's arrangements for handling petitions.

6 Financial and Legal Implications

6.1 Any financial and/or legal implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions.

7 Recommendation

7.1 Members are requested to:

- (a) note the petition responses and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report;
- (b) note the petition referral in paragraph 4 of the report and await the outcome of a meeting to be held between the lead petitioner and officers to discuss the matter further.

Background papers

Medway Council's Constitution
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

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