

Cabinet Member for Public Services

15 March 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Services – Councillor R Lancaster

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Petitions Determined by Letter and Petitions Deferred Pending Further Investigations

Is this a key decision?

No – Although the matter affects more than two Wards of the City, this report is for monitoring purposes only.

Executive Summary:

In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to traffic management and road safety issues are considered by the Cabinet Member for Public Services.

In June 2015, amendments to the Petitions Scheme, which forms part of the Constitution, were approved in order to provide flexibility and streamline current practice. This change has reduced costs and bureaucracy and improved the service to the public.

These amendments allow a petition to be dealt with or responded to by letter without being formally presented in a report to a Cabinet Member meeting.

In light of this amendment, it is proposed that a summary of those petitions received determined by letter, or where decisions are deferred pending further investigations, be reported to subsequent meetings of the Cabinet Member for Public Services, where appropriate, for monitoring and transparency purposes.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for Public Services is recommended to:-

1. Approve that, where appropriate, a summary of petitions received which are determined by letter and/or where decisions are deferred pending further investigation, be reported to meetings of the Cabinet Member for Public Services for monitoring purposes.
2. Endorse the actions being taken by officers as set out in Section 2 and Appendix A of the report in response to the petitions received.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A – Petitions Determined by Letter and Petitions Deferred Pending Further Investigations

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities Meeting 18 June 2015 report: Amendments to the Constitution – Proposed Amendments to the Petitions Scheme

A copy of the report is available at modern.gov.coventry.gov.uk.

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Petitions Determined by Letter and Petitions Deferred Pending Further Investigations

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to traffic management and road safety issues are considered by the Cabinet Member for Public Services.
- 1.2 Amendments to the Petitions Scheme, which forms part of the Constitution, were approved by the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities on 18 June 2015 and Full Council on 23 June 2015 in order to provide flexibility and streamline current practice.
- 1.3 These amendments allow a petition to be dealt with or responded to by letter without being formally presented in a report to a Cabinet Member meeting. The advantages of this change are two-fold; firstly it saves taxpayers money by streamlining the process and reducing bureaucracy. Secondly it means that petitions can be dealt with and responded to quicker, improving the responsiveness of the service given to the public.
- 1.4 Each petition is still dealt with on an individual basis. The Cabinet Member considers advice from officers on appropriate action to respond to the petitioners' request, which in some circumstances, may be for the petition to be dealt with or responded to without the need for formal consideration at a Cabinet Member meeting. In such circumstances and with the approval of the Cabinet Member, written agreement is then sought from the relevant Councillor/Petition Organiser to proceed in this manner.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Officers will respond to the petitions received by determination letter or holding letter as set out in Appendix A of this report.
- 2.2 Where a holding letter is to be sent, this is because further investigation work is required of the matters raised. Details of the actions agreed are also included in Appendix A.
- 2.3 Once the matters have been investigated, a follow-up letter will be sent to the petition organiser or, if appropriate, a report will be submitted to a future Cabinet Member meeting, detailing the results of the investigations and subsequent recommended action.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 In the case of a petition being determined by letter, written agreement is sought from the relevant Petition Organiser and Councillor Sponsor to proceed in this manner. If they do not agree, a report responding to the petition will be prepared for consideration at a future Cabinet Member meeting. The Petition Organiser and Councillor Sponsor will be invited to attend this meeting where they will have the opportunity to speak on behalf of the petitioners.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Letters referred to in Appendix A will be sent out in March 2016.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

Not applicable

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Not applicable

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Determining petitions by letter enables petitioners' requests to be responded to more quickly and efficiently.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

There are no public sector equality duties which are of relevance.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s)**Name and job title:**

Martin Wilkinson
Senior Officer - Traffic Management

Directorate:

Place

Tel and email contact:

Tel - 024 7683 2062
Email - martin.wilkinson@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Colin Knight	Assistant Director (Planning, Transport and Highways)	Place	04/03/16	04/03/16
Paul Boulton	Head of Traffic and Transportation	Place	03/03/16	04/03/16
Caron Archer	Principle Officer - Traffic Management	Place	03/03/16	04/03/16
Tracy Cowley	Highways Technical Services Manager	Place	03/03/16	04/03/16
Jas Bilen	Human Resources Manager	Resources	04/03/16	04/03/16
Liz Knight/Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Resources	03/03/16	03/03/16
Names of approvers: (officers and Members)				
Graham Clark	Lead Accountant	Resources	04/03/16	04/03/16
Sam McGinty	Solicitor	Resources	04/03/16	04/03/16
Councillor R Lancaster	Cabinet Member for Public Services	-	04/03/16	04/03/16

This report is published on the council's website: moderngov.coventry.gov.uk

Appendix A – Petitions Determined by Letter and Petitions Deferred Pending Further Investigations

Petition Title	Councillor Sponsor	Type of letter to be sent to petition organiser(s) and sponsor	Actions agreed
44/15 - Resurface and maintain the road and pavements at Brakenhurst Road	Councillor Galliers	Determination	Brakenhurst Road provisionally included in 2016/17 carriageway resurfacing programme subject to approval by Cabinet on 8 March 2016.
76/15 and E134 - Concerns about Traffic Congestion on the Roundabout at A45, Pickford Way, Parkhill Drive and Request for Traffic Lights	Councillor Thomas	Holding	Surveys undertaken. Analysis to be conducted.
43/15 – Speeding Traffic and Parking Issues in Sunningdale Avenue	Councillor Clifford	Holding	Speed survey to be undertaken.
54/15 + E166 – Detailed Traffic and Parking Consultation in and around Tile Hill Village	Councillor Lapsa	Holding	Site meeting to be convened by Centro to discuss options and possible solutions.
E168 – Corner of Lynchgate Road, and Sir William Lyons Road, Request for Pedestrian Safety Crossing	Not Applicable	Holding	Post-construction monitoring of measures to be implemented as part of Aldi and University of Warwick developments.
E161 – Safe Crossing required for Beechwood Avenue at Junction with Rochester Road	Councillor Andrews	Holding	Pedestrian crossing count to be carried out.
55/15 – Request for Residents Parking Schemes in Burnsall Road, Burnsall Grove and Sir Henry Parkes Road	Councillor Andrews	Holding	6 month review of parking restrictions installed in January 2016 to be undertaken.
56/15 – Residents Parking Scheme on Benedictine Road	Councillor Bailey	Holding	To be considered as part of review of Cheylesmore Residents Parking Scheme and neighbouring roads currently underway.
E97 - Speeding on Hockley Lane	Councillor Thomas	Holding	Speed survey to be undertaken.