

Cabinet Member for City Services

12th December 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor J Innes

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 - 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, road safety and highway maintenance issues are considered by the Cabinet Member for City 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 for 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, at the meeting of the former Cabinet Member for Public Services on 15 March 2016, it was approved that a summary of those petitions received which were determined by letter, or where decisions are deferred pending further investigations, be reported to subsequent meetings of the Cabinet Member for Public Services (now amended to Cabinet Member for City Services), where appropriate, for monitoring and transparency purposes.

Appendix A to the report sets out the petitions received since the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for City Services and how officers propose to respond to them.

Recommendation:

Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to 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 moderngov@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, road safety and highway maintenance issues are considered by the Cabinet Member for City 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 determination 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 to the report will be sent out by December 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)

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Place

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Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
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Caron Archer	Principle Officer - Traffic Management	Place	29/11/16	29/11/16

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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	Target Date for Determination Letter / CM Report
26/16 - Request to Review Decision to Build a Single Point of Entry/ Exit to the New Housing Estate on the Bend in Blackberry Lane	Councillor Abbott	Determination	Safety audit of proposed access has been undertaken. Developer has agreed to fund safety audit recommendations: extension of 20mph Zone, speed cushions and pedestrian refuges. Design of traffic calming will be subject to public and stakeholder consultation.	December
32/16 - Request for a Residents Parking Scheme at Robert Close	N/A	Holding	To arrange parking surveys to assess extent of problem	February
33/16 - Outlaw Parking of Motor Vehicles on Pavements of Coventry	Councillor O'Boyle	Determination	<p>Previous petition regarding pavement parking was heard in February 2015. Recommendations approved will continue to address obstruction of pavements as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take action against offending vehicles where parking restrictions exist • support the Police who have the power to take action against vehicles obstructing the pavement where no parking restrictions exist • implement physical measures to prevent pavement parking as part of the verge protection programme, based on the priority of the scheme and the availability of funding • where a petition is received requesting a TRO for a footway or verge parking ban on a specific road, investigate the problem and, if action is required, schedule any works based on the priority of the scheme and the funds available 	December