

Cabinet Member for City Services

6 November 2017

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor J Innes

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Ward(s) affected:**

Binley and Willenhall, Cheylesmore, Foleshill, Holbrook, Westwood, Woodlands

**Title:**

Petitions Determined by Letter and Petitions Deferred Pending Further Investigations

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**Is this a key decision?**

No - this report is for monitoring purposes only

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**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 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 sets out petitions received relating to the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for City Services and how officers propose to respond to them.

**Recommendations:**

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](http://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 will be sent out by December 2017.

## **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate 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

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Place

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<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Directorate or organisation</b>	<b>Date doc sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Karen Seager	Head of Traffic and Network Management	Place	19/10/17	24/10/2017
Caron Archer	Principle Officer - Traffic Management	Place	19/10/17	20/10/2017

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

Petition Title	No. of signatures	Councillor Sponsor	Type of letter to be sent to petition organiser(s) and sponsor	Actions agreed	Target Date for Determination Letter / CM Report
16/17, E77 - Road Safety Measures Alderminster Road	466	Councillor Lepoidevin	Determination	<p>Refresh existing 'slow' and other road markings.</p> <p>Advertise 'No waiting at any time restriction' (double yellow lines) at junctions with Beausale Crescent, Ayhno Close and access road to the shops as part of the next waiting restriction review planned for November.</p> <p>Refer to Community Speed Watch. Location will also be included in schedule of sites for mobile vehicle-activated speed reduction signs.</p>	December
18/17, E63 - 20mph Zone for a Safer and Healthier Tile Hill Village	314	Councillor Skinner	Determination	<p>5 Personal Injury Collisions in last 3 years in the area highlighted in the petition, none of which involved pedestrians. Therefore, criteria for the Safety Scheme programme are not met.</p> <p>However, negotiations are currently underway with developers regarding proposals in the local area. The planning process includes the possibility of securing mitigation measures such as traffic calming and improvements to signalised junctions. Any proposals will be subject to local consultation.</p>	December
E64 - Ease Traffic at A45/Herald Way Junction	6	N/A	Determination	Request for removal of section of bus lane. Lane was revoked on an experimental basis on 14 September 2017. Permanent order is subject to an objection period ending on 22 May 2018.	December

E70 - Keep Clear Box to Provide Access to Seymour Close	24	N/A	Holding	Location to be monitored via CCTV; footage to be reviewed to assess need for yellow box junction.	January
E71 - Remove Kerb and Grass, Request for Seymour Close	14	N/A	Determination	Grass verge not adopted. Residents should direct request to landowner who would need to discuss any proposals with the Council's Planning Team.	December
E72 - Enlarge Pedestrian Crossing Buttons	42	N/A	Holding	Request to be investigated.	January
E73 - Lack of Parking in Roosevelt Drive Cul-de-sac, Tile Hill	15	N/A	Determination	Grass verges are not adopted. Issues raised should be directed to the landowner, in this case Whitefriars. Any proposals would need to be discussed with the Council's Planning Team.	December
E75 - Request to Implement a One Way Traffic Flow System on Holmsdale Road	5	N/A	Determination	Does not meet criteria for the Safety Scheme programme (no Personal Injury Collisions in last 3 years). Proposal would also result in detour for residents and potential increase in traffic on residential part of Holmsdale Rd and neighbouring streets.	December
E76 - Speed Ramps on Whitmore Park Road	8	N/A	Determination	Does not meet criteria for Safety Scheme programme (no Personal Injury Collisions in last 3 years). Refer to Community Speed Watch.	December
E80 - Put a Mirror onto the Bridge on St James Lane	19	N/A	Determination	We do not install mirrors on the highway, as they can distort the reflected image, sunlight or headlights can reflect and dazzle other drivers, it is difficult to judge the speed of vehicles reflected in the mirror. There are also maintenance and vandalism issues. No Personal Injury Collisions in last 3 years at this location.	December