

Cabinet Member for City Services

19 October 2022

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Transportation and Highways

Ward(s) affected:

Cheylesmore, Earlsdon, Holbrook, Radford, Whoberley

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 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:

1. 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, 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 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 of the report.
- 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 of the report will be sent out by November 2022.

5. Comments from the Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Governance

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 the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan)?

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) climate change and the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report author(s)

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Contributor/approver name	Title	Service	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Rachel Goodyer	Head of Traffic	Transportation and Highways	06/10/2022	
Caron Archer	Principal Officer – Traffic Management	Transportation and Highways	06/10/2022	06/10/2022
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Law and Governance	06/10/2022	10/10/2022

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

Petition No.	Petition Title	No. of signatures	Councillor Sponsor	Type of letter to be sent to petition organiser(s) and sponsor	Actions agreed
E60/21	20 MPH Zone for Earlsdon	584	N/A	Determination	A Liveable Neighbourhoods project is currently under preparation to encourage more walking and cycling in Earlsdon. The points raised by petitioners have been referred to the Project Team for consideration during project development.
E04/22	Please Support 20mph Zones by Primary Schools in Allesley Park and Whoberley	140	Councillor B Singh	Holding	Further investigations to be undertaken.
E05/22	Support a 20mph Zone by All Souls Primary School in Chapelfields	47	Councillor B Singh	Determination	Abercorn Road does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the safety scheme programme (review of personal injury collisions shows none recorded in last three years). However, the Council is currently trialling an initiative called School Streets, which aims to address traffic-related issues outside schools by limiting traffic at the beginning and end of the school day. If the trial is successful, the initiative will be extended to other schools and All Souls will be considered for inclusion in the scheme. A proposal to install double yellow lines on the bend outside the school entrance, as discussed previously with the school, will also be included in the next review of waiting restrictions.
E08/22 & 22/22	Speeding on Hen Lane and Roland Avenue	34	Councillor Lancaster	Determination	Hen Lane and Roland Avenue do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the safety scheme programme (review of personal injury collisions shows two recorded on Hen Lane and one on Roland Avenue in last three years). However, Hen Lane and Roland Avenue will be added to the programme for the deployment of temporary vehicle-activated speed limit signs. Details of Community Speed Watch to be provided.

E09/22	Request for Double Yellow Lines Installation on all Junctions in the Vicinity of Harewood, Gorseway, Wildcroft and Heathfield	8	Councillor B Singh	Determination	Request will be assessed in line with new waiting restriction policy.
18/22	Request from Sandy Lane Residents Houses 15-41 to have Residents Parking Only	27	Councillor M Ali	Determination	Area highlighted is not large enough for a residents' parking scheme. Therefore, it is not proposed to introduce such a waiting restriction at this location.
E17/22	Speed Control Measures on Queen Isabel's Avenue	6	N/A	Determination	Does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the safety scheme programme (review of personal injury collisions shows none recorded in last three years). However, Queen Isabel's Avenue will be added to the programme for the deployment of temporary vehicle-activated speed limit signs. Details of Community Speed Watch to be provided.