

Cabinet Member for City Services

28 February 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Transportation, Highways and Sustainability

Ward(s) affected:

Bablake, Binley & Willenhall, Earlsdon, Upper Stoke, Wainbody, Westwood, Woodlands

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: 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 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 March 2024.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources 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 One Coventry Plan?

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

Name and job title:

Martin Wilkinson
Senior Officer - Traffic Management

Service:

Transportation, Highways and Sustainability

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 7697 7139
Email: martin.wilkinson@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/ approver name	Title	Service	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors :				
Caron Archer	Principal Officer – Traffic Management	Transportation, Highways and Sustainability	16/02/2024	19/02/2024
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	16/02/2024	16/02/2024

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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
E13/23	Road Safety on the T-junction between Blackberry Lane and Kare Road	65	N/A	Determination	Does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the safety scheme programme (no recorded personal injury collisions at junction in last three years). Council does not install mirrors on the public highway, as they can distort the reflected image, sunlight or headlights can reflect and dazzle drivers and it can be difficult to judge the speed of vehicles reflected in a mirror; maintenance and vandalism issues can also arise.
E17/23	Baginton Road Pedestrian Crossing	162	Cllr Tucker	Determination	Crossing survey showed that location does not meet the criteria for a controlled crossing.
20/23	Charter Avenue leading to Cromwell Lane - Pedestrian Crossing	41	Cllr Masih	Determination	Crossing survey will be undertaken. Request and results will be forwarded to the Engineering Design Team developing highway schemes related to nearby developments for their consideration.
E27/23	Pedestrian Crossing on Tile Hill Lane by Our Lady of The Assumption Primary School	87	N/A	Determination	Request to be considered as part of investigations into future Local Safety Scheme on Tile Hill Lane.
E25/23	Moreall Meadows - Parking Restrictions	21	Cllr Blundell	Determination	Request for a change to the current parking restrictions in Moreall Meadows to be considered as part of the next waiting restriction review.

E28/23	Resident Parking Permits in Broadwells Court	28	N/A	Determination	Area highlighted is not large enough for a residents' parking scheme. Therefore, no further action is proposed.
E30/23	Top end of Eastern Green Road/Alspath Lane - Pedestrian Crossing	64	N/A	Determination	At the location highlighted, it is not possible to achieve the forward visibility required for a crossing. Therefore, no further action is proposed.
E33/23 & 26/23	St James Lane - Average Speed Cameras	72	Cllr Thomas	Determination	St James' Lane does not meet criteria for Average Speed Enforcement. However, the lining and signage on the road will be reviewed and refreshed where necessary, a speed survey will be undertaken and the road will be added to the mobile vehicle activated sign programme.
03/23 & E09/23	Brownhill Green Road - Install Pedestrian Crossing	84	Councillor Jandu	Determination	Request has been forwarded to the Engineering Design Team developing highway schemes related to nearby developments for their consideration.
E07/23	Hollyfast Lane - Reduce the Speed Limit	43	N/A	Determination	Speed surveys have shown that average weekday speeds are appropriate for the nature of the road. A reduction in the speed limit is unlikely to have the desired effect. However, issue will be considered as part of investigations into potential measures to address concerns relating to speeding and anti-social behaviour in the wider area.