

Cabinet Member for City Services

10th April 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of City Services

Ward(s) affected:

Bablake, Earlsdon, Foleshill, Sherbourne

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

Recommendation:

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 to 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: edemocracy.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 to the 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 to 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 to the report will be sent out by May 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?

(<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/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

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Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
David Keaney	Head of Network Management	City Services	27/03/24	27/03/24
Caron Archer	Principal Officer – Traffic Management	City Services	27/03/24	27/03/24
Michelle Salmon	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	27/03/24	27/03/24

This report is published on the council's website:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/council-meetings>

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
29/22	Removal of Residents Parking Permit Scheme Sir Henry Parkes Road	71	Cllr Tucker	Determination	An agreed residents' consultation on the proposal to remove Sir Henry Parkes Road from Resident Parking Scheme CA1 and CA2 has now been completed and the results analysed. This has demonstrated that there is insufficient support from residents at this time to justify the removal of the road from the residents' scheme. As such no further action is proposed.
33/23	Stoney Stanton Road - Residents Parking Area	11	Cllr Nazir	Determination	The current parking restriction is a limited waiting restriction and is considered appropriate for this location, mindful of the location, adjacent restrictions, and the current mix of residential and commercial premises that it serves. Therefore, there are no current proposals to change the restriction. Monitoring of the area and parking practices will continue, to understand the impact of the adjacent Crabmill Lane resident parking scheme which will be introduced later in 2024.

Petition No.	Petition Title	No. of signatures	Councillor Sponsor	Type of letter to be sent to petition organiser(s) and sponsor	Actions agreed
E45/23	Hollyfast Road - Pedestrian Crossing	16	Cllr Simpson	Holding	This request is noted, however insufficient information has been provided with the petition to enable a detailed investigation as to the merit and feasibility of the request to be undertaken. As such, it is proposed to seek further detail from the lead petitioner which will enable the request to be assessed.
29/23	Pickford Green Lane, Allesley - Chronic Parking Problems	138	Cllr Jandu	Determination	The request has been noted. Proposals to introduce such measures at this location had previously been proposed and will be advertised on 4 April. The proposal will be subject to the standard 21-day statutory objection period. Any objections received will be considered by the Cabinet Member at a public meeting prior to determining if the advertised changes will be implemented.