

Cabinet Member for City Services

8th November 2024

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor P Hetherton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of City Services & Commercial

Ward(s) affected:

Bablake, Binley & Willenhall, Earlsdon

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.

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 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 December 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:				
John Seddon	Strategic Lead Policy and Innovation	City Services and Commercial	18/10/2024	18/10/2024
David Keaney	Head of Network Management	City Services and Commercial	18/10/2024	18/10/2024
Caron Archer	Principal Officer, Traffic Management	City Services and Commercial	18/10/2024	18/10/2024
Michelle Salmon / Caroline Taylor	Governance Services Officer	Law and Governance	18/10/2024	18/10/2024

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<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
e08/ 24-25	Access to George Marston Road & Loweswater Road from Princethorpe Way	8	N/A	Determination	The prohibition of the left turn into George Martson Road has been in place since 1973 to keep through traffic on Princethorpe Way which is the appropriate route for through traffic. The revocation of the prohibition may result in drivers using residential roads to reach Binley Road. This would increase traffic travelling through the residential area which would be to the detriment of the local community. Therefore, whilst the concerns of petitioners are noted, it is not proposed to revoke the current prohibition at the current time.
e11/ 24-25	Brownhill Green Road - Traffic Calming	18	N/A	Determination	The request and concerns have been noted. Whilst at present Brownhill Green Road does not meet the criteria for consideration for inclusion in the safety scheme programme (less than six personal injury collisions in the last three years), opportunities for measures on Brownhill Green Road as part of works relating to nearby developments are currently being explored. The petition will be considered as part of the review and adds weight to the need for an additional crossing facility in this area.

e05/ 24-25	Winifred Avenue - Residents Parking Permit	9	N/A	Determination	Following concerns raised by residents, additional parking enforcement patrols have been undertaken. For a residents' parking request to be considered, it must have the support of at least 60% of affected households. Unfortunately, this petition does not meet that criterion. If the petition organiser secures the support of at least 60% of households, a new petition may be submitted no sooner than six months after this petition closed.
10/ 24-25	Bredon Avenue - Traffic Calming Measures	95	Cllr Agboola	Determination	Bredon Avenue does not meet the criteria for consideration for inclusion in the safety scheme programme (no recorded personal injury collisions in last three years). The petitioners will be provided with details of the Police's Community Speed Watch scheme. Bredon Avenue will also be added to the programme for the deployment of mobile vehicle-activated speed limit signs.