
**Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny
Management Committee**

14 October 2019

Report of the Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Schedule of Petitions

Summary

1. Members of this Committee are aware of their role in the initial consideration of petitions received by the Authority. The current petitions process was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee on 2 October 2014 and endorsed by Council on 9 October 2014. This process aims to ensure scrutiny of the actions taken in relation to petitions received either by Members or Officers.

Background

2. Following agreement of the above petitions process, Members of the former Corporate and Scrutiny Management Policy and Scrutiny Committee (CSMC) had been considering a full schedule of petitions received at each meeting, commenting on actions taken by the Executive Member or Officer, or awaiting decisions to be taken at future Executive Member Decision Sessions.
3. However, in order to simplify this process Members agreed, at their June 2015 meeting, that the petitions annex should in future be provided in a reduced format in order to make the information relevant and manageable. At that meeting it was agreed that future petitions reports should include an annex of current petitions and agreed actions, but only following consideration of the petitions by the Executive or relevant Executive Member or Officer.
4. This was agreed, in the knowledge that the full petitions schedule was publicly available on the Council's website and that it was updated and republished after each meeting of the Committee.
<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13020&path=0>

5. Further to deciding at the last meeting of this Committee that the Chair, in conjunction with the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny, reviews the type of petition being received on the schedule by the Committee, discussions are ongoing with relevant directorates.

Current Petitions Update

6. A copy of the reduced petitions schedule is now attached at Annex A of the report which provides a list of new petitions received to date together with details of those considered by the Executive or relevant Executive Member/Officer since the last report to the Committee in September. Further information relating to petitions which have been considered by the Executive Members/Officers since the last meeting are set out below:

Petition Number:

130. Residents Priority Parking in Rectory Gardens.

This 21 name petition was presented at Full Council in March 2019 by Cllr Crawshaw, it requested formal consultation on the introduction of residents' priority parking in Rectory Gardens. It was considered on 19 September 2019 by the Executive Member for Transport who agreed to include the addition of Bishopthorpe Road (part) and Rectory Gardens to the waiting list and to combine the consultation of this with the consultation for Balmoral Terrace which is already on the waiting list.

134. Save open space at Fulford Cross.

This 54 name petition was presented to Full Council by Cllr D'Agorne in March 2019. It called on the Council to protect the public open space on Fulford Cross and adopt the highway 'triangle' prior to the proposed 125 year lease for the Daneshouse Centre. It was considered by the Executive on 29 August 2019 when it was agreed that the areas of land as marked on Appendix C to the report be excluded from the 125 year lease to the Multi Academy Trust. These are Area 1, the road next to the Triangle (grassed area) and Area 2, the Triangle (grassed area) of land.

135. Residents' Priority Parking in Kilburn Road.

This paper petition was presented to Full Council by Cllr D'Agorne in March 2019. The 47-name petition called on the Council to introduce a residents only parking scheme for Kilburn Road to stop commuter parking outside our homes, which could get worse as a consequence of Frederick House redevelopment for student accommodation. It was considered on 19 September by the Executive Member for Transport

who agreed to include the addition of Kilburn Road to the residents parking waiting list and to consider the extent of the potential consultation area when it reaches the top of the list.

136. Residents' Priority parking in Wellington Street, Willis St, Gordon Street and Wolsley Street.

This 54-name petition was presented to Full Council by Cllr D'Agorne in March 2019. It called on the Council to introduce a residents-only parking scheme in Wellington Street, Gordon Street and Wolsley Street to stop commuter parking outside their homes. It was considered on 19 September by the Executive Member for Transport who agreed to include the addition of Wellington Street, Gordon Street and Wolsley Street to the residents parking waiting list and to consider the extent of the potential consultation area when it reaches the top of the list.

141. Residents' Priority Parking in Longfield Terrace and Lower Ebor Street.

This paper petition was presented to Network management on 23 April 2019. The 10 signature petition requested the Council includes Longfield Terrace and Lower Ebor Street in the R33 Residents' Parking Zone. It was considered on 19 September by the Executive Member for Transport who agreed to advertise extending the existing zones that surround Longfield Terrace and lower Ebor Street (two small areas) on the same terms as the existing schemes.

142. Safety and Access Concerns on the Revival Estate.

This 153 name petition from the Revival Residents Community Association (Tadcaster Road) requested action to resolve safety and access concerns on the Revival Estate (to included implementing some form of residents' parking permit scheme and speed restriction). Evidence of support for scheme was presented to Executive Member for Transport at a Decision Session on 20 June 2019 by Cllr Fenton and members of the Association. It was considered on 19 September by the Executive Member for Transport who agreed to the addition of the Revival Estate to the residents' parking waiting list as this would respond to residents' concerns in the order they have been raised and can be progressed depending on funding.

The Process

7. There are a number of options available to the Committee as set out in paragraph 7 below, however these are not exhaustive. Every petition is,

of course, unique, and it may be that Members feel a different course of action from the standard is necessary.

Options

8. Having considered the reduced Schedule attached which provides details of petitions received and considered by the Executive/Executive Member since the last meeting of the Committee; Members have a number of options in relation to those petitions:
 - Request a fuller report, if applicable, for instance when a petition has received substantial support;
 - Note receipt of the petition and the proposed action;
 - Ask the relevant decision maker or the appropriate Executive Member to attend the Committee to answer questions in relation to it;
 - Undertake a detailed scrutiny review, gathering evidence and making recommendations to the decision maker;
 - Refer the matter to Full Council where its significance requires a debate;

If Members feel that appropriate action has already been taken or is planned, then no further consideration by scrutiny may be necessary.

9. Following this meeting, the lead petitioner in each case will be kept informed of this Committee's consideration of their petition, including any further action Members may decide to take.

Consultation

10. All Groups were consulted on the process of considering more appropriate ways in which the Council deal with and respond to petitions, resulting in the current process. Relevant Directorates are involved and have been consulted on the handling of the petitions outlined in Annex A.

Implications

11. There are no known legal, financial, human resources or other implications directly associated with the recommendations in this report. However, depending upon what, if any, further actions Members agree to there may, of course, be specific implications for resources which would need to be addressed.

Risk Management

12. There are no known risk implications associated with the recommendations in this report. Members should, however, assess the reputational risk by ensuring appropriate and detailed consideration is given to petitions from the public.

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to consider the petitions received on the attached Schedule at Annex A and as further outlined in this report, and agree an appropriate course of action in each case.

Reason: To ensure the Committee carries out its requirements in relation to petitions.

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Wards Affected:

All



Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A – Extract from schedule of petitions received and action taken to date