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**Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny  
Management Committee**

9 September 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>

## **Current Petitions Update**

5. 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 June. Further information relating to petitions which have been considered by the Executive Members/Officers since the last meeting are set out below:

### **Petition Number:**

#### **114. Green Waste Collection for East Mount Road.**

This was presented by Councillor Kramm at Full Council on 25 October 2018. The 39 signature petition called upon the Council to look for suitable collection arrangements for green waste in East Mount Road, to provide the service paid for by council tax to all council tax payers. This was considered by the Executive Member for Environment on 11 March 2019.

In response to matters raised under public participation, officers confirmed that, for health and safety reasons, the council did not provide a bagged collection service for green waste. The Executive Member resolved that Option 2 be approved and that future provision be considered later in 2019, as part of the ongoing bags to bins project.

### **The Process**

6. 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**

7. 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.

8. 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**

9. 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**

10. 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**

11. 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

- 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.

### Contact Details:

#### Author:

Steve Entwistle  
Scrutiny Officer  
Tel: 01904 554279  
[steven.entwistle@york.gov.uk](mailto:steven.entwistle@york.gov.uk)

#### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Dawn Steel,  
Head of Democratic Services.  
Tel: 01904 551030  
[dawn.steel@york.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.steel@york.gov.uk)

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Wards Affected:

All



**Background Papers:** None

#### Annexes:

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