
**Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy &
Scrutiny Committee****11 January 2016**

Report of the Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Schedule of Petitions**Summary**

1. Members of this Committee are aware of their new 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 aimed 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 Corporate and Scrutiny Management Policy and Scrutiny Committee 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 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 publically available on the Council's website and that it was updated and republished after each meeting of the Committee.
<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD1956&ID=1956&RPID=10321482&sch=doc&cat=13020&path=13020>

5. **Current Petitions Update**

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

Petition Nos.

28. Repair Dodsworth Area Road Surface

This e-petition which ran from 2 June to 2 December 2015 asked the Council to agree that the condition of road surfaces in the Dodsworth Residents' Association area, in particular, Dodsworth Avenue, Pottery Lane and Fossway, had deteriorated to such an extent that there had been actual and potential damage to road users.

At the end of the petition period, it had received only two signatories and was therefore referred to the Council's Flood Risk and Asset Manager to contact the lead signatory, which he did on 8 December. He confirmed that the Council had considered their asset data covering the streets referred to in the petition and that the data had shown that a section of the roads identified would be considered as part of the Council's programme of works for 2016/17.

32. Cranbrook Road – Speed Ramp

This petition requested the Council to build speed ramps on Cranbrook Road, York, as residents felt that motorists were continuously speeding beyond 20 mph. Residents had been concerned for their children's safety on the roads.

The Executive Member for Transport & Planning considered this petition as part of a report to his Decision Session on 12 November 2015. This was as part of a partnership speed review update which provided an overview of the locations from 2013, 2014 & 2015 where concerns about traffic speeds had been raised, and set out progress towards assessing these against the agreed prioritisation framework.

The Executive Member noted that a site assessment had been undertaken on 23 September 2015 for Cranbrook Road and that

this was one of the 45 outstanding sites now with North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue awaiting 7 day x 24 hr speed data. He also noted that Cranbrook Road would be subject to the same criteria for action as all other community concerns and that the conclusions, once reached, would be shared with the lead petitioner, MP and Cllr S Barnes.

38. **Gating of Snickets, Gale Lane/Bachelor Hill, Acomb**

This petition was presented at the October Council meeting by Cllr Hunter, signed by 12 local residents requesting the gating of snickets between the backs of 30-38 Gale Lane, 1-9 and 11-15 Bachelor Hill.

The Executive Member for Transport & Planning had considered this request at his Decision Session on 3 December 2015. Officers had requested crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) statistics for both alleyways and for the period between 01/10/14 and 30/09/15, there had been no recorded incidents of crime and/or ASB on either snicket.

It was also confirmed at the meeting that, although there were currently no recorded incidents of crime and ASB associated with the two alleyways in question, the request to gate them could be added to the list of other requests to be prioritised accordingly, as and when resources allowed.

The Executive Member had agreed not to progress the petition request at this time, and to add the two alleyways in question to the list of other alley-gating requests to be prioritised accordingly as the requirements of the legislation were not currently being met in this instance.

45. **Speed Limit, Wetherby Road, Acomb**

This petition requesting the reduction of the 60mph speed limit on Wetherby Road (Acomb) to the A1237 to 40mph, had also been considered by the Executive Member for Transport & Planning at his Decision Session on 12 November 2015, as part of the Officer report which presented the partnership speed review update.

Councillor Waller, as one of the Ward Members, spoke at the meeting to confirm that the particular concern of residents was speed and Councillor Waller felt that a 40mph buffer was required

and Officers had agreed that this would be incorporated into ongoing consultations.

The Executive Member had approved a programme of proposed speed management engineering schemes and authorised Officers to undertake further consultation and advertisement of speed limit orders as necessary, and to implement the measures if no objections were received. This had also included consultation regarding a 60mph limit on Wetherby Road (Acomb) to the A1237 being reduced to 40mph in a similar way to neighbouring junctions. Any measures which received objections would be reported back to the Executive Member for a decision.

6. The Process

There are a number of options available to the Committee as set out in paragraph 7 below. 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 resource 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

12. Members are asked to consider the petitions received and actions reported, as set out in paragraph 5 above and on the attached Schedule at Annex A, and agree an appropriate course of action in each case.

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

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Report Approved



Date

28 December 2015

Wards Affected:

All



Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A - Schedule of new petitions received and action taken to date