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**Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy &  
Scrutiny Committee****7 March 2016**

Report of the Assistant Director Governance &amp; 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 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 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/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13020&path=0>

## **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 together with 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 Number**

#### **39. Road Improvements – Langdale Avenue/ Rydal Avenue area**

This petition, signed by 49 residents, was presented to Council on 8 October 2015 by Cllr Ayre. The petition related to roads in the Langdale Avenue/Rydal Avenue area in the Heworth Without ward and called on the Council to work with residents to improve the roads.

On 11 February 2016, the Executive Member for Planning and Transport considered an Officer report relating to the highway condition and the adoption of private streets. Officers confirmed that there were approximately 100 unadopted roads in York, and that residents would have to be in agreement prior to a street being adopted. Officers had confirmed that responsibility for funding to bring a road up to adoptable standard rested with the frontagers of the street with a potential contribution from the Council under the existing policy. It was noted that funding for the future maintenance of a street would be allocated from Council resources once it had been adopted by the Council.

Officers had made reference to the Council's existing policy, approved in 2005, which set out a process for the potential adoption of unadopted roads. They had confirmed that, whilst there had been no changes to the underlying legislation since the policy had been approved; there have been changes to the availability of resources and funding. The Executive Member had therefore proposed a review of the policy to check that it was still fit for purpose and agreed that an updated policy should be brought before a future Executive Member meeting for further consideration.

This had been agreed to ensure that the most appropriate policy was in place for the adoption of private streets.

**43. Ableton Grove, Haxby**

A petition, which requested the Council to implement parking restrictions on Ableton Grove Haxby had been submitted by Cllr Richardson on 5 November 2015, signed by 18 residents of Ableton Grove.

This petition, together with a petition from residents of South Lane, Haxby, also requesting parking restrictions (which contained less than 10 signatories) had also considered by the Executive Member for Planning and Transport at his Decision Session on 11 February 2016.

The Executive Member had considered an Officer report which set out details of the carriageway width of these residential roads and he had noted that of the complaints received from residents of Ableton Grove, some related to parking sited opposite driveway entrances. Details of the costs related to the provision further white bar marking provision, a single yellow line restriction to operate 8am to 6pm, a timed restriction for the full length of the road were reported however, such proposals were considered likely to be of detriment to some residents who were likely to raise objections.

Officers considered that it would not be justifiable to use general Council funds for the provision of restrictions in this area as there did not appear to be a road safety issue, parking was not affecting traffic flow on an arterial route and parking in the area did not affect a bus route. It was suggested that it may be possible that the funding for the parking restrictions could be considered from Ward Committee funds. A Residents' Priority Parking Scheme had also been suggested as the most efficient way of preventing non-resident parking whilst still leaving an amenity for local residents. Ward Councillors have been made aware of these options previously.

Officers stated that they had investigated the reported requests however they had advised the Executive Member that the situation was similar across the city.

The Executive Member had suggested that residents could put white lines in front of their properties and that residents parking

could be investigated. He had also suggested that Haxby Town Council may wish to submit proposals to Officers, however he had agreed that the matter was closed and that no further action be taken in relation to the requests. This decision had been taken as both areas had been included and considered earlier in the year as part of the 2015 Review of Waiting Restrictions.

#### **47. Broadway, Fulford**

This petition requesting the Council to implement Residents Priority Parking for properties at 110-128 Broadway had been presented to the Acting Director of City and Environmental Services on 5 October 2015. The petition had been signed by all 12 residents residing in properties 110-128 Broadway.

The Executive Member for Planning and Transport had also considered this petition at his Decision Session on 11 February together with written representations in support of the request from Cllr Aspden.

Officers confirmed that, in October 2015, waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) had been implemented on Heslington Lane to prevent obstruction and improve safety in the area. Parking had however displaced into more residential areas and was now concentrated adjacent to properties 110-128 Broadway. Residents had reported that they were now unable to park close to their homes, especially during office hours.

The Executive Member noted that none of the properties (110-128 Broadway) had any off-street parking amenity and that the properties were owned by the Ministry of Defence and rented to army personnel. He also noted that properties to the west of 110 Broadway currently had an off-street parking amenity for one or more vehicles. Officers confirmed that they did not believe that the Ministry of Defence would consider funding dropped kerb access to these properties to provide an off-street parking amenity.

In view of the points put forward the Executive Member had agreed to request Officers to undertake formal consultation to enable residents to make an informed decision in relation to priority parking.

## 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.

## Contact Details

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### Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty  
AD Governance & ICT

**Report  
Approved**



**Date**

24 February 2016

Wards Affected:

All



**Background Papers:** None

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