
Corporate & Scrutiny Management Policy & Scrutiny Committee

8 May 2017

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 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. Current Petitions Update

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

Petition Number

70. Strensall Road (Earswick Parish) – Petition for speed reduction

This hard copy petition urged the Council to support a reduction in the speed limit on the (approx. third of a mile) section of Strensall Road between Earswick and Towthorpe which is currently set at the national speed limit (60mph). The petition was handed in at Full Council on 15 December 2016 by Councillor Doughty and considered by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning at his Decision Session on 13 April 2017.

The Executive Member noted the petition and agreed that the issue be considered as part of the annual accident and prevention measures across the city.

72. A request for parking restrictions on the two entrance ways to the rear lanes of Claremont Terrace, York

This petition requested that the Council consider parking restrictions on the two entrance ways to the rear lanes of Claremont Terrace, York. A hard copy of this petition was presented to Network Management on 12 December 2016 and was considered by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning at his Decision Session on 13 April 2017.

The Executive Member agreed that;

(i) The Claremont Terrace Access Only Traffic Regulation Order be rescinded.

(ii) The residents parking scheme be changed to a zone entry scheme with the same times and conditions as now.

(iii) A proposed additional parking space as put forward in the previous recommendation with a 30 minute maximum stay be advertised.

(iv) These changes be carried out as part of the next annual review of city wide traffic regulation orders expected to be brought forward in early summer.

This decision had been made in order to resolve the issue of vehicles obstructing the back lane without the need for yellow lines.

79. Save Our Local Services

This petition requested that the Council urge Post Office Ltd to re-open their branch in Clifton Ward at the earliest opportunity to restore services for people of Clifton. The petition was handed over at Full Council on 30 March 2017 by Councillors D Myers and Wells.

The Assistant Director for Communities and Equalities wrote to Post Office Ltd on 10 April 2017 on behalf of CYC, and their response can be found at Annex B.

81. Garden Waste Collection

This petition contained a request for green waste collection services for residents at No's 21 to 30 Southlands Road. The petition was received by email via Councillor Kramm on 9 April 2017.

Officers responded to state that this issue was already being considered as part of a project looking at moving properties (where appropriate) from waste collection in bags to waste collection in bins. Alongside the bags to bins project the Council was reviewing the grey and green collection service and areas currently without a green collection would be considered during this process.

6. The Process

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 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 requirements in relation to petitions.

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Report
Approved



Date

27 April 2017

Wards Affected:

All



Background Papers: None

Annexes:

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

Annex B – Response from the Office of the Group Chief Executive, Post Office Ltd