
Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee

18 April 2018

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>

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 meeting of 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:

86. Petition for a Clean Air Zone.

A petition containing approximately 600 signatures requesting implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan, a Clean Air Zone for the City Centre and targeted enforcement action was handed over by Cllr D'Agorne at an Executive member for Environment decision session on 7 August 2017. It was considered as part of "A Clean Air Zone for York including Anti Idling Enforcement" report by Executive on 25 January 2018.

Executive members agreed:

- (i) That the introduction of a CAZ in 2020, subject to a consultation on the details of the proposed CAZ, be approved.
- (ii) That Option 2 - a single emissions standard for most vehicles operating on registered local bus services in York - be indicated as the preferred option within the consultation.
- (iii) That the introduction of a minimum Ultra Low Emission Bus standard for all City of York Council (CYC) contracted bus services when new contracts are awarded be approved.
- (iv) That a report be brought back to the Executive with options to introduce a similar standard in the procurement of fleet and other buses by CYC.
- (v) That the use of enforcement to supplement the existing awareness-raising activities to reduce stationary vehicle idling in York be approved.

91. Petition requesting a puffin crossing (or otherwise) on Lowther Street in the vicinity of Park Grove Primary School.

This petition, containing 220 signatures, was presented at Full Council on 26 October 2017 by Cllr Flinders. It was considered by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning on 18 January 2018.

The Executive Member resolved to instruct officers to investigate, within their 2018/19 programme of works, other potential engineering measures to improve this section of Lowther Street for pedestrians.

92. Petition on behalf of the Friends of Holgate Community Garden and local residents in the Holgate Ward to Stop York Council from bulldozing through Holgate Community Garden and Play Park

This 1,242-name petition was emailed to Democratic Services and the Director of Economy and Place Neil Ferris on 13 November 2017. It was considered by Executive on 16 November 2017 as part of the York Central Access Road report. It had been due to be considered by CSMC on 22 January 2018 but was deferred because of the by-election on Holgate Ward and purdah.

Executive resolved that the recommendation of the York Central Partnership (YCP) - to develop a Western access option for inclusion in the York Central Master Plan and to undertake further design and legal work to ensure that the final alignment will seek to mitigate the effects of such a route on the Millennium Green and control costs to ensure deliverability – be agreed.

And: That land within YCP's control that could be used for a Southern Option be safeguarded, in order to protect against any risk to the York Central development caused by circumstances preventing successful delivery of a Western Option.

93. Petition for the provision of a left filter land at the Hopgrove Lane South / Malton Road junction.

This petition, containing 172 names, was presented to the Executive Member for Transport and Planning and considered by the Executive Member on 15 February 2018.

The Executive Member resolved to carry out some preliminary investigations in to the feasibility, likely cost, and impact of such a proposal.

94. Petition to remove the £40 fee for safeguarding training (for taxi drivers in reference to taxi licensing)

This petition, containing 286 names, was emailed to the Licensing Team and referred to a Joint Executive Member Decision Session of the Executive Member Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods and the Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People. It was considered on 10 March 2018 when it was agreed that no further action is required as an ongoing review of the training is already timetabled.

95 Petition to “support the motion for City of York Council to restrict out of town working in our city. And do not want UBER licence to be renewed. UBER are a danger to vulnerable members of the public, they seek to take advantage by plying for hire without bookings, charge excessive surcharges and have individuals working for them whom have no knowledge of our city. We would like all drivers who work in York to be registered with a local private hire company or be a Hackney driver. We do not want UBER in York”

This 1,353-name petition was handed in at a meeting of the Gambling, Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 12 December 2017. It was referred to a Joint Executive Member Decision Session of the Executive Member Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods and the Executive Member for Education.

It was considered at a decision session on 10 March 2018 when it was agreed that no further actions is required but that officers write again to the Department for Transport highlighting concerns regarding the number of vehicles working in York that are licensed by other authorities.

96. Petition from Osbaldwick residents calling for the removal of 20mph signs in Osbaldwick

The petition, containing 157 names, was presented to a Full Council meeting on 14 December 2017 by Cllr Warters. It was considered by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning on 15 February 2018 and the Executive Member resolved to:

(a) To undertake a speed survey of traffic in Osbaldwick in an area/s determined in consultation with ward councillors and to defer further decision regarding the retention of the 20mph speed limit until such a survey has been undertaken.

(b) To review the provision of the existing signs in Osbaldwick to determine if there are any that could be removed and still comply with the signage regulations / guidance.

98. Petition from residents of 15-37 Albemarle Road requesting Residents' Priority Parking

This petition, containing 11 signatures, was received by email on 15 January 2018 and was considered by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning on 15 March 2018.

The Executive Member agreed that Albemarle Road be added to the Residents' Priority Parking waiting list (area to be determined by officers) and a formal consultation be undertaken when the item reaches the top of the list.

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

12. 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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Report
Approved



Date

6 April 2018

Wards Affected:

All



Background Papers: None

Annexes:

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