
**Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny
Management Committee**

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

Petition Number:

99 Petition in objection to the proposed position of a new bus stop outside the Sun Inn, Acomb Green.

This 116-name petition from patrons and supporters of the Sun Inn was handed in to the Executive Member for Transport and Planning at a Decision Session on 15 March 2018. The Executive Member approved this scheme as part of a review of pedestrian crossing requests from across the city at a Decision Session on 12 July 2018

100. Petition to adopt all highways on the Arlington Road/Tamworth Road Persimmon Estate.

This 144 petition was presented to Cllr Aspden by residents of Arlington Road/Tamworth Road and was considered by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning on 12 July 2018. The Executive Member noted that officers had agreed with Persimmon Homes the work and repairs needed to bring the roads to an adoptable standard and that adoption should be concluded later in the summer.

104. Petition requesting Residents Parking on Main Avenue, First Avenue and Second Avenue

This petition containing 32 signatures from 29 properties was presented to the transport department by residents from Main Avenue, First Avenue and Second Avenue and was considered by the Executive member for Transport and Planning on 16 August 2018. The Executive Member agreed that the streets be added to the residents parking waiting list and an investigation and consultation about any future scheme be carried out when they reach the top of the list.

105. Petition requesting consultation on residents parking on Balmoral Terrace.

This petition covering 29 properties on Balmoral Terrace was posted to the transport department and was considered by the Executive member for Transport and Planning on 16 August 2018. The Executive Member agreed the area be added to the residents parking waiting list and an investigation and consultation about any future scheme be carried out when it 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

29 August 2018

Wards Affected:

All



Background Papers: None

Annexes:

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