
**Corporate & Scrutiny Management & Policy &
Scrutiny Committee**

14 September 2015

Report of the AD Governance & ICT

Schedule of Petitions

Summary

1. Members of this Committee are now 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 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 the Committee's meeting on 15 June, 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.
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 since the last meeting of the Committee. Further information relating to the petitions which have now been considered by the Executive Members since the last meeting is set out below:

20. **Anti-Social Behaviour, Clifton Moor Retail Park**

This petition has been referred to Jane Mowat, Head of Community Safety, in the first instance, it is hoped to provide a further update to Members at the meeting in relation to next steps associated with this petition.

22. **Pedestrian Crossing, Askham Lane/Westfield School**

This petition, received at Council from Cllr Waller, was considered by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning at his Decision Session on 23 July 2015.

The Executive Member considered a report which presented the 174 signature petition requesting that the Council establish a pedestrian crossing on Askham Lane in the vicinity of Westfield School.

Consideration was given to the following options:

Option 1: Investigate whether a formal crossing was appropriate and if so, undertake feasibility work to determine how to deliver such a scheme. This work would include consultation with affected parties and identification of a funding source. If a feasible scheme was identified a further report would be brought to an Executive Member Decision Session for consideration.

Option 2: Note the petition but take no further action.

The Executive Member agreed Option 1 to investigate the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing across Askham Lane in the vicinity of Westfield School. This was to determine whether a pedestrian crossing would be appropriate at this location and if so, how this would be achieved both in terms of design and funding

25. **Aldreth Grove Residents Parking Request**

This petition had been received by Network Management and was also considered by the Executive Member for Transport and Planning at a Decision Session on 23 July 2015.

The Executive Member considered a report which outlined a response to the 17 signature petition, which represented 54% of properties on Aldreth Grove, York, requesting that the Council consult with residents on introducing a Residents Priority Parking Scheme (ResPark).

Consideration was given to the following options:

Option 1: To undertake consultation with a wider area including Aldreth Grove, Cameron Grove, St Clements Grove and Bishopthorpe Road (part).

Option 2: To consult with Aldreth Grove residents only.

Option 3: To consider the level of support is not sufficient at this time to warrant further consultation.

The Executive Member stated that he was mindful that in order to implement such a scheme in one street could move the problem elsewhere and he therefore agreed a formal consultation with Aldreth Grove (petition received) and also the surrounding streets (currently not signed a petition). This included Cameron Grove, St. Clements Grove and Bishopthorpe Road (part).

Although not common procedure when dealing with requests for new Residents Parking Schemes, due to the location and consequent concerns from nearby residents, currently not petitioned, it was agreed that it would be more practicable on this occasion to consult with both Aldreth Grove and the surrounding streets at the same time.

26. **No to Waste Collection Cuts**

This e-petition related to waste collection, closed on 30 May 2015 and requested the Council to

- halt any plans to reduce grey bin emptying frequency to 3 weekly or less.

- reconsider its plan to introduce a £35 pa charge for emptying all green bins and
- to provide an improved network of litter bins and to give a high priority to ensuring that our streets, highways and hedgerows are kept clear of dumped rubbish.

Owing to changes in the Council administration, any next steps in relation to this petition were deferred to await the outcome of revised budgetary considerations at the July Council meeting.

Following consideration of a budget amendment at the 16 July Council meeting, the following changes were agreed in relation to future expenditure on waste collection and street cleaning as part of that amendment:

	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	Ongoing Effect £000
REVENUE EXPENDITURE			
Increase Recycling Promotion Budget for 2 years	30	30	0
Reverse savings proposals for charging for green bin collection	800	1,000	1,000
Extend Green Waste provision (2 rounds)	64	64	64
Additional Investment for Ward Grants as part of new Ward Committee system.	75	75	75
Additional city wide cleaning programme	25	0	0

27. **Multi Academy Trust**

As reported at the last meeting, this 517 postcard petition requesting a ballot to ask parents whether they supported the proposed conversion of three local schools in the South Bank area to a multi academy trust had been referred to the Director of Children's Services, Education & Skills and the Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People.

The Director of Children's Services, Education & Skills in consultation with the Executive confirmed that legally it was for the three governing bodies of Millthorpe, Scarcroft and Knavesmire schools to make the decision on whether to convert to a Multi-Schools Academy Trust.

Therefore, the Executive did not believe that a non-binding ballot of the local community would substantially add to the existing comprehensive, inclusive and varied consultation process already underway.

However, the three governing bodies were being asked to reiterate to all parents and stakeholders how they could engage with the current consultation process to make their views known and if necessary extend the consultation timescale to ensure all parties had the opportunity to comment.

Following consideration of the response the Committee at their last meeting, referred the petition to the Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People to provide a formal response to the lead petitioner. However it was found that contact with the lead petitioner was not possible as the postcards sent in did not contain any contact details for the individual signatories.

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 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 4 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

4 September 2015

Wards Affected:

All



Background Papers: None

Annexes:

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