

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 30 September 2020

Report Title

Petitions

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides Members with a list of all petitions received by Rotherham MBC since the last Council meeting held on 22nd July, 2020 and details which petitions will be presented by members of the public at this Council meeting.

No petitions have been submitted since the previous Council meeting that meet the threshold for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. Similarly, no petitions have met the threshold to require a debate at the Council meeting.

This report is submitted for Members' awareness of the items to be presented to the Council meeting.

Recommendations

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Council receive the petitions listed at paragraph 2.2 of the report and lead petitioners be entitled to address the Council for a total period of five minutes in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.
3. That the relevant Strategic Directors be required to respond to the lead petitioners as set out by 14th October, 2020.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Petitions

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council refreshed its Petition Scheme in May 2019, following its introduction in 2010 after legislative changes requiring local authorities to respond to petitions. Whilst the Localism Act 2011 repealed that statutory requirement, the Council has maintained its commitment to responding to issues raised by local people and communities in respect of matters within the Council's remit.
- 1.2 The current Petition Scheme sets thresholds for various routes that petitions can take through the decision making process:-
- Up to 20 signatures – not accepted as a petition.
 - 20 to 599 signatures – five minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and response by relevant Strategic Director.
 - 600 to 1,999 signatures – five minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner and referral to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for review of the issues, followed by response by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board setting out their findings and recommendations.
 - 2,000 signatures and above – five minute presentation to Council by Lead Petitioner followed by a 15 minute debate of the petition by the Council, followed by response by relevant Strategic Director on behalf of the Council.
- 1.3 This report is submitted for information to detail the number of petitions received since the previous Council meeting held on 26 February 2020 and the route that these petitions will take through the Council's decision making processes.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Since the last Council meeting held on 22nd July, 2020, no petitions have been received that would require a debate by the Council or referral to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 2.2 The following petitions have been received which meet the threshold for presentation to the Council meeting and for a response to be issued by the relevant Strategic Director:-

Subject	Number of Valid Signatures	Lead Petitioner	Strategic Director to respond
Residents' request for replacement pavements and crossings on Well View Road.	30 signatures	Mr. L. Ashton Mr. S. Collins	Regeneration and Environment

Request to the Council to explain why a report on RMBC's website (presented to the Improving Live Select Committee in March, 2020) continued to communicate errors of fact after these errors were pointed out.	22 signatures	Mr. L. Harron on behalf of 'T'	Children and Young People's Services
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2.3 In accordance with the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme, a response will be issued to the Lead Petitioner by 14th October, 2020.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 This report is submitted for information and Members are recommended to note the content and resolve that the petitions received be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report is submitted for information in order to detail the petitions received by the Council since the previous Council meeting held on 26 February 2020. There are no consultation issues directly associated with this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 Under the provisions of the Council's Petition Scheme, Strategic Directors are accountable for the provision of responses to petitions received by the authority. The scheme provides for responses to be issued to the lead petitioner following the Council meeting. As a customer service standard, the Council has committed to responding to petitions within ten working days of the Council meeting.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly associated with this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly associated with this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 Whilst there are petitions listed for presentation that have implications for children and young people, there are no implications for either children and young people or vulnerable adults directly arising from this report.

10. **Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

10.1 There are no specific equalities or human rights implications directly associated with this report.

11. **Implications for Ward Priorities**

11.1 There are no direct implications on ward priorities arising from the petitions referred to earlier in this report.

12. **Implications for Partners**

12.1 There are no known implications for partners arising from the petitions referred to earlier in this report.

13. **Risks and Mitigation**

13.1. As this report is submitted for information, there are no risks associated with the presentation of information in respect of petitions received.

14. **Accountable Officers**

Craig Tyler, Head of Democratic Services

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