

## Summary Sheet

### Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 11 May 2022

### Report Title

Petition – Improve Road Safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane

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

No

### Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

### Report Author(s)

Caroline Webb, Senior Governance Advisor  
01709 822765 [caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk)

### Ward(s) Affected

Hellaby and Maltby West  
Bramley and Ravenfield  
Dinnington  
Thurcroft and Wickersley South

## Summary

At the Council meeting on 13 April 2022, it was noted that a petition had been received in respect of a request to the Council to improve road safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsworth Lane. As the petition had 622 valid signatures under the Council's petition scheme, it has been referred to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for review.

This report sets the process that the Board should follow in considering the call for action contained within the petition.

## Recommendations

1. That the petition be considered according to the procedure set out in paragraph 4.2.
2. That consideration be given to whether the call for action in the petition should be supported or not.

3. That the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board report back to Council on the outcome of deliberations on the petition.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Petition Front Sheet

**Background Papers**

Minutes of Council – 13 April 2022

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Petition – Improve road safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsworth Lane**

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the petition be considered according to the procedure set out in paragraph 4.2.
- 1.2 That consideration be given to whether the call for action in the petition should be supported or not.
- 1.3 That the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board report back to Council on the outcome of deliberations on the petition.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 At the Council meeting held on 13 April 2022, a petition to request the Council to improve road safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsworth Lane was formally received. The petition contained 622 valid signatures (revised) under the Council's Petition Scheme and was accordingly referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for review. The 'front sheet' of the petition is enclosed as Appendix 1 to this report.

### **3. Key Issues**

- 3.1 The petition requests that the Council to improve road safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsworth Lane.
- 3.2 The text of the petition is as follows:

*"We the undersigned ask RMBC Highways to take significant action such as making the road much slower, installation of barriers and resurfacing the road to ensure the potential for further loss of life is minimised. For a long time individuals have been complaining regarding the state of the road conditions on Kingsforth Lane/Cumwell Lane Thurcroft at the exit to the landfill site. Lorries exit the site on a daily basis and deposit sludge and muck over the road leaving a sludgy coating on the asphalt. With many twists turns and dips this contributes to the hazard of driving the road. Yes some will say drive within your limits but the surface represents black ice and can catch out the most experienced driver. Unfortunately lives have been lost and irrespective of individual complaints being made very little sustainable action seems to have been taken. A road sweeper constantly going up and down the road only seems to spread the problem.*

*We understand that drivers not driving to the conditions of the road cannot be catered for but 99% of people using the road are experiencing hazardous driving conditions when driving within their limits for the road.*

*ACTION needs taking now by RMBC Highways to address the root cause and to ensure the chance of further accidents and lives lost is reduced.*

*Increased signage, substantial cleaning on site before lorries exit, street lighting, speed bumps or dare I say reduced speed limit and cameras. All relatively cheap measures compared to the loss of human life.”*

- 3.3 The Council has referred the petition to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to review
- 3.4 The lead petitioner has been invited to attend the Board and may make verbal representations for up to five minutes. The Board then has the opportunity to seek further information from the lead petitioner through questions.

#### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 4.1 A petition is a call for action and the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in reviewing the petition is to ensure that consideration is given to that call for action and to review any associated decision-making processes. In this particular case, the Board should consider the merits of the case made by the petitioners and determine whether recommendations should be made to give effect to the call for action.
- 4.2 In considering the petition, the following procedure, subject to the Chair's discretion, will be followed in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme:
  - 1. The Chair will welcome attendees to the meeting and explain the procedure that will be followed at the meeting.
  - 2. The Lead Petitioner will have the opportunity to present the call for action in the petition for a period of up to five minutes.
  - 3. Members may ask questions of the Lead Petitioner in respect of the presentation for a period of up to fifteen minutes.
  - 4. The relevant Cabinet Member and/or officers will present the background to the issue and respond to the issues raised in the petition and the statement by the Lead Petitioner.
  - 5. The Lead Petitioner may put questions to the Cabinet Member and/or officers for the purposes of clarification for a period of up to five minutes.
  - 6. Members may ask questions of the Cabinet Member and/or officers.
  - 7. Following the conclusion of questions, Members may debate the merits of the petition and the Council's position.
  - 8. The Chair will invite Members to propose a recommendation(s) on petition, which will either support or reject the petition. In recommending either, the Board may make further recommendations to Council or Cabinet on any lessons learned from the petition or decision-making process.
- 4.3 At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair will advise the Lead Petitioner that formal notification of the Board's recommendation will be provided in writing within ten working days and published on the Council's website as part of the minutes of the meeting.

## **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is responsible for considering the request to review the petition and communicating the outcome of the review within ten working days to the lead petitioner.
- 5.2 If Members determine that the request is valid and requires further investigation, then Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will provide direction on whether it requires further consideration by an officer, the Cabinet or whether the response should be considered by the Council. The petition scheme does not provide a timescale for this to be completed, but where consideration is required by either Cabinet or Council this will be listed on the agenda for the next available meeting.
- 5.3 No further will action will be required if Overview and Scrutiny Management Board do not support the petition.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Implications**

- 6.1 If the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board were minded to agree with the call for action in the petition and make a recommendation to the Cabinet in respect of improving road safety on Cumwell Lane/Kingsforth Lane, analysis of financial implications would be reported to the decision maker prior to any final determination.

## **7. Legal Implications**

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

## **8. Human Resources Implications**

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 In considering the petition, Members should seek assurances that the implications for children and young people and vulnerable adults have been addressed.

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

- 10.1 Members should be mindful of equalities when considering the call for action within the petition. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 in particular imposes an obligation on Members to have due regard to protecting and promoting the welfare and interests of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (such as: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation).

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

11.1 In considering the petition, Members should seek assurances that any implications for CO2 emissions and climate change resulting from the call for action have been addressed.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

12.1 As above, in considering the petition, Members should seek assurances that any implications for partners resulting from the call for action have been addressed.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

13.1 As above, in considering the petition, Members should seek assurances that the call for action does not directly present any risks to the Council.

### **Accountable Officer(s)**

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive  
Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services

*Report Author:* ***Error! Reference source not found.***  
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).