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## PETITION TO COUNCIL – ELLINGTON PARK

To: **Council – 3 December 2015**

By: **Gavin Waite, Director of Operational Services**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Wards: **All**

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**Summary:** **A petition to the Council has been received in relation to supporting the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the regeneration of Ellington Park.**

### For decision

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#### **1.0 Introduction and background information**

1.1 Under the Council's petitions scheme, if a petition contains more than 1,000 signatures, the petition organiser will be offered five minutes to present the petition at a meeting of Council; and, at the meeting at which the presentation of the petition takes place, Council will debate the petition and decide how to respond.

#### **2.0 Current Situation**

2.1 A petition organised by Mrs Beverley Perkins of the Friends of Ellington Park has been validly signed by 2,498 persons. The petition prayer reads:

"We the undersigned ask the council (Thanet District Council) to support the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the regeneration of Ellington Park, Ramsgate."

2.2 In addition to the 2498 persons who have validly signed the petition, 131 signatures were disallowed as they were deemed invalid in accordance with the Council's petition scheme. Of the 2,498 valid signatures 115 were from outside the Thanet District. In addition an epetition on the Council's website containing the same petition prayer was submitted at the same time by the petitioner organiser which contained a further 38 signatories.

2.3 Mrs Perkins has confirmed that she would like to present the petition at this meeting; she will, under the petitions scheme, have up to five minutes in which to speak.

2.4 The Council is committed to working with the Friends of Ellington Park in order to submit a fresh funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in 2016. A project team of council officers met with the Friends of Ellington Park on 12 October 2015 in order to commence the HLF submission process.

2.5 The next step will be for the Friends and Council Officers to meet with representatives from the HLF to discuss the outcome of the previous application and how we now take forward a redeveloped partnership application. We then plan to submit an application to the HLF for the next Parks for People programme deadline in February 2016.

2.6 The support given by TDC is conditional on both partners being able to agree an application that does not expose TDC to significant risk or costs both during the application process and also the delivery and implementation phase, which could be up to

25 years and includes additional repair and maintenance costs associated with the regeneration work.

### **3.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **3.1 Financial**

3.1.1 Current project cost proposals are being discussed as part of the regular meetings between representatives of both parties. Future maintenance costs of proposals are one area of concern given the financial pressures on local authorities nationally and these need to be reviewed throughout the application process. Further VAT advice will need to be sought once final costs and project proposals are known.

#### **3.2 Legal**

3.2.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. Further Legal advice will need to be sought once project proposals are known

#### **3.3 Corporate**

3.3.1 In accordance with the Council's petitions scheme, if a petition contains more than 1,000 signatures, Council will debate the petition and decide how to respond.

#### **3.4 Equity and Equalities**

3.4.1 There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.

### **4.0 Recommendation**

4.1 That Council debate the petition and confirm its support as outlined in this report.

### **5.0 Decision Making Process**

5.1 Petitions are considered by Council. Those that have over 1000 signatories may be debated at Full Council.

Contact Officer:	Gavin Waite, Director of Operational Services
Reporting to:	Madeline Homer, Chief Executive

#### **Annex List**

None	
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#### **Corporate Consultation Undertaken**

Finance	Clive Bowen, External Funding Officer
Legal	Ciara Feeney, Head of Legal Services
Communications	Hannah Thorpe, Head of Communications