

PETITION REGARDING CONDEMNATION OF RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND HATE CRIMES ACROSS THANET

Meeting – 13 October 2016

Report Author **Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager**

Portfolio Holder **Councillor Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance Services**

Status **For recommendation**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Key Decision **No**

Ward: **All Wards**

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 340 valid signatures has been received by the Council asking the council to state their opposition to racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.

This report sets out how the Council deals with petitions of this size; it explains how the petition organiser can present the petition to the meeting and sets out the next steps as to how the Council will deal with the petition.

Recommendation(s):

Under the Council’s petitions scheme, Council is required to refer the petition to Cabinet without debate for report back to Council.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	There are no identified financial implications from this report.
Legal	This matter is dealt with under the Council’s scheme for dealing with petitions from the public which is contained within the constitution.
Corporate	In accordance with the Council’s petition scheme if a petition has over 25, but less than 650, signatories, it will be referred to Cabinet or an appropriate committee without debate for report to Council within three ordinary meetings.
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	x
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	x
	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	x
There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.		

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	x

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	x

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Under the terms of the Council's petitions scheme, members of the public may present petitions at ordinary meetings of Council; and if a petition has over 25, but less than 650, signatories, it will be referred to Cabinet or an appropriate committee without debate for report to Council within three ordinary meetings.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 A petition organised by Mr David Wright has been validly signed by 340 persons. The petition prayer reads:

"We call upon Thanet District Council to "stand against hate" – to state their opposition to racism, xenophobia and hate-crimes; ensure resources and support are available to do this and to affirm their continuing intent for unity, compassion and understanding."

- 2.2 The petition organiser is entitled to present their petition to Council, and in accordance with the Council's petition scheme has three minutes to present the petition. Whether Mr Wright will be taking up the opportunity to present the petition, will be confirmed by the Chairman at the meeting.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 Under the Council's petitions scheme, Council is required to refer the petition to Cabinet without debate for report back to Council.

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager (7208)
Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Annex List

None	N/A
------	-----

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
<i>None</i>	<i>N/A</i>

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Matt Sanham, Interim Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer