

PETITION REGARDING WESTERN UNDERCLIFF FACILITIES

Council	7 December 2017
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance Services
Status	For recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 1910 valid signatures and an e-petition containing 135 valid signatures were received by the Council requesting the reinstatement of local facilities along Western Undercliff, Ramsgate.

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

Recommendation(s):

In accordance with 1.6(b) of the Council's petitions scheme, following presentation of the petition, Council refer the petition to Cabinet without debate as the petition is in reference to an executive function.

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	<p>If a petition contains more than 1,000 signatures, Council can debate the petition unless it falls into a category of exception as detailed at paragraph (a) and (b) of 1.6 of the scheme. In this case paragraph (b) would be appropriate, namely;</p> <p>(b) If the petition with 1000 or more signatures relates to an issue for which the executive (Cabinet) has responsibility, it may, following presentation, be referred by Council to Cabinet without debate.</p>
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector	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

Equality 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,	
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.		
There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.		
However it is important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and show evidence that due consideration had been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.		

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

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

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 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;
- 1.2 The Council's petition scheme allows an e-petition and a paper petition to be run side by side as long as the petition prayers are identical and the paper petition is submitted at the end date of the e-petition. The number of signatories for both the paper and e-petition are reported separately, within the same report and the Council will take action based upon the threshold met by the largest petition.
- 1.3 If a petition contains more than 1,000 signatures, Council can debate the petition unless it falls into a category of exception as detailed at paragraph (a) and (b) of 1.6 of the scheme. In this case paragraph (b) would be appropriate, namely;

(b) If the petition with 1000 or more signatures relates to an issue for which the executive (Cabinet) has responsibility, it may, following presentation, be referred by Council to Cabinet without debate.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 A paper petition and e-petition was organised by Ms Morgan the paper petition was validly signed by 1910 persons, and the e-petition was validly signed by 135 persons. The petition prayers for both petitions were identical and read:

“We the undersigned petition the council to reinstate our local facilities along the Western undercliff, Ramsgate. It is imperative that we have public conveniences for all. The nearest toilets now are at the top of the cliff, which means it excludes people with disabilities and most parents with small children. We feel that this would increase the usage of the area and encourage tourists.”

- 2.2 The petition organiser is entitled to present their petition to Council, and in accordance with the Council’s petition scheme has five minutes to present the petition.
- 2.3 Ms Morgan has informed the Council that she will be in attendance to present the petition.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 Under paragraph 1.6 (b) of the Council’s petitions scheme, if the petition with 1000 or more signatures relates to an issue for which the executive (Cabinet) has responsibility, it may, following presentation, be referred by Council to Cabinet without debate.

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Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	N/A

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer