

PETITION REGARDING THE PORT OF RAMSGATE

Council	6 December 2018
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Ashbee, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Coastal Development
Status	For recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 1119 valid signatures and an e-petition containing 154 valid signatures was received by the Council requesting that the council accept that the signatories have no confidence in the Council's operation of the Royal Harbour and Port; so demand that Thanet District Council create an independent working party to investigate the losses and bring forward a comprehensive regeneration plan within six months.

This report sets out how the Council deals with petitions of this size; it explains that the petition will be presented to the 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	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

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.</p> <p>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.</p>	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.	
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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 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.

1.2 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 Mr Coombs the paper petition was validly signed by 1119 persons, and the e-petition was validly signed by 154 persons. The petition prayers for both petitions were identical and read:

“We the undersigned petition the council to accept we have no confidence in the Council’s operation of the Royal Harbour and Port. So we demand that Thanet District Council create an independent working party to investigate the losses and bring forward a comprehensive regeneration plan within six months”

- 2.2 In accordance with the Council’s petition scheme the petition may be presented to Council and the presenter has five minutes in which to do this.

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.

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager (7208)
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	Gary Whittaker, Interim Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer