

PETITION REGARDING MARGATE CLOCK TOWER TOILETS

Council	11 July 2019
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Pugh, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Coastal Development
Status	For recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 386 valid signatures was received by the Council requesting that Thanet District Council immediately rescinds its decision to close the Margate Clocktower toilets.

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):

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	<p>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.</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> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</div>

	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 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 Rob Yates (now Cllr Yates) has been validly signed by 386 people. The petition prayer and justification reads:

"We the undersigned demand that Thanet District Council immediately rescinds its decision to close the much needed Margate Clocktower toilets. The three million pounds allocated to refurbish council offices should be used to protect essential local and tourist services. We need to safeguard the services that boost our flourishing tourism economy. This decision is short-sighted and detrimental."

- 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.
- 2.3 Councillor Yates has informed the Council that he will be in attendance to present the petition.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 Under the Council's petitions scheme, Council is required to refer the petition to Cabinet for report back to Council within three ordinary meetings.

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
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	Chris Blundell, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer