

PETITION REGARDING MARGATE CLOCKTOWER TOILETS

Council	27 February 2020
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Coastal Development
Status	For information
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. It was referred to Cabinet by Council at its meeting of the 11 July 2019.

The report is for information only and is to inform the Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting on 19 September 2019.

Recommendation(s):

To note the report.

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>

	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) ✓	
Growth	
Environment	
Communities	✓

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 This report informs the Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 September 2019.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 A petition organised by Councillor 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 was considered at the full Council meeting on 11 July 2019. It was referred to the meeting of Cabinet on 19 September 2019 for decision in accordance with the Council's petition scheme.

2.3 Cabinet agreed:

1. That the update detailed in the Cabinet report be provided as a response to the petition. The Margate Clocktower public toilets will not be re-opened for the remainder of the season.
2. That further updates on the review of public toilets be provided through the appropriate channels at a later date to be agreed with the working group.

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

Annex List

Annex 1	Cabinet Report
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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