

PETITION REGARDING DOG RESTRICTIONS ON THANET BEACHES

Council	09 July 2020
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Rob Yates, Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance
Status	For recommendation
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

An Epetition containing 27 valid signatures was received by the Council requesting that Thanet District Council immediately reverses its decision to continue to restrict dog walking on Thanet Beaches for one month.

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	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,	
	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 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 An Epetition organised by Ms Sian Denereaz has been validly signed by 27 people. The petition prayer reads:

"We the undersigned petition the council to Postpone the regular dog walking restrictions on Thanet beaches for a month. With social distancing still in place, we are extremely lucky to have the beaches as an extra space to walk our dogs whilst keeping our distance. It seems extremely short sighted that, when other councils have lifted restrictions TDC have decided not to. Walking on the beach is an ideal way to keep the space between yourself and others. We will not have day trippers, visitors or holiday makers. The beaches will not be any busier than they are at the moment. We urge TDC to reconsider their decision."

- 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 Ms Denereaz has been contacted by the Council but is not expected to 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
------	-----

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