

# **REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL - CABINET RESPONSE TO BEACH TOILET FACILITIES PETITION**

<b>Council</b>	<b>10 December 2020</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Operational Services</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>For information</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>No</b>

## **Executive Summary:**

An ePetition containing 147 valid signatures was received by the Council requesting that Thanet District Council ensure adequate toilet and waste facilities at Thanet Beaches and review current infrastructure to ensure the health and wellbeing of residents.

The report is for information only and is to inform the Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting on 19 November 2020.

## **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. In regards to a paper and ePetition running simultaneously, the number of signatories to both petitions is reported separately but within the same report. The Council will take a course of action based on the largest threshold met by either petition.

## **Equality 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, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific 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**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Communities*
- *Environment*

### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 This report informs the Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 November 2020.

### **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 An ePetition organised by Mr Smith has been validly signed by 147 people. The petition prayer and justification reads:

“We the undersigned petition the council to hold a thorough review of the facilities available around the Thanet beaches to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both visitors and residents and to invest in adequate infrastructure to meet the outcomes.”

2.2 The petition was considered at the full Council meeting on 9 July 2020. It was referred to the meeting of Cabinet on 19 November 2020 for decision in accordance with the Council's petition scheme.

2.3 Cabinet agreed to note the concerns raised, and confirmed that the toilet facilities serving Thanet beaches would be reviewed by Officers and Members over the winter season with the review and recommendations reported back to Cabinet in March 2021.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

**Annex List**

There are no Annexes with this report.

**Background Papers**

There are no Background Papers with this report.

**Corporate Consultation**

**Finance:** Chris Blundell, Director of Financial Services

**Legal:** Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer