

REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL - THANET LIFTS PETITION

Council	24 February 2022
Report Author	Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Status	For Information
Classification:	Unrestricted
Ward:	Eastcliff and Viking

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 2180 valid signatures has been received requesting that the seaside lifts at Viking Bay and Ramsgate be reopened.

The report is for information only and is to inform the Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting on 31 August 2021 when the petition was considered.

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

Having a petition scheme allows members of the public to submit petitions to the Council on subjects of public interest and concern and allows Council to hear from those individuals and discuss their concerns.

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.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Environment
- Communities

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 This report informs the Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting held on 31 August 2021.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 An e-petition has been received by Mr Stickings MBE, which was validly signed by 2180 persons.

The petition prayer reads as follows:

“Thanet District Council have announced on 01/04/21 that the lifts at Viking Bay and Ramsgate will be closed this is their statement as detailed below.

On the Thanet council website a statement says: “Unfortunately our seaside lifts at Viking Bay and Ramsgate remain closed. Even if temporary repairs can be made to get the lifts open, contractors have advised there is no guarantee they will stay working during the season.

“A long-term strategy for both lifts will be formulated to consider their future. In the meantime, the council has measures in place to allow for alternative accessible routes to the beach, which include:

Matting installed at one side of the beach (Harbour Street, Broadstairs) to lengthen the boardwalk and allow for alternative accessible routes to the beach.”

This is not good enough and needs to be addressed ASAP, if they were working last year, how can it be that these lifts are now beyond repair. This impacts massively on our disabled community. I have a son who is blind the Lift is helpful for him on some occasions but more so for those who have other issues. This impacts severely on our disabled community and disabled visitors. The solution of matting is NOT good enough.

These lifts are part of Broadstairs and Ramsgate. Visitors flock to our beautiful towns and love the fact that its open to all to use ALL amenities. Sadly TDC have now taken this away. It will have an impact not only on them but our local shops and businesses who some will no longer be able to reach.

Spend the money, repair the lifts, and give our disabled people the same level of inclusion and access as their peers. Everybody needs access. Our disabled community and those who need these lifts including our visitors will lose access because of this action, please help and support this so TDC will reverse this decision.”

- 2.2 The petition was considered at the full Council meeting on 3 June 2021. It was referred to the meeting of Cabinet on 31 August 2021 for decision in accordance with the Council’s petition scheme.
- 2.3 Cabinet received an update on all aspects of the seaside lifts, and would meet with community groups before considering a final, more comprehensive report, with specific recommendations for decision.

Contact Officer: Nicholas Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to: Estelle Culligan, Director of Governance and Law.

Annex List

None

Background Papers

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell (Director of Finance)

Legal: Estelle Culligan (Director of Law and Democracy)