

# **Response to Petition regarding removal of vehicles and unattached trailers from Lyell Court and Briece Court, Birchington**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>28 March 2024</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Nicholas Hughes, Committee Services Manager
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Keen, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
<b>Status</b>	For Information
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Ward:</b>	Birchington North Ward

## **Executive Summary:**

The report outlines a petition that was received by the Council. The petition requests that the Council removed vehicles and unattached trailers abandoned outside Lyell Court and Briece Court in Lyell Road, Birchington.

## **Recommendation(s):**

The report is for information only.

## **Corporate Implications**

### **Financial and Value for Money**

Response to petition has no financial implications.

### **Legal**

There are no particular legal implications arising.

Part 5 of the Council's constitution provides that Ordinary petitions are those petitions signed by 50 or more petitioners but fewer than 1500. These are to be presented to a senior Officer of the Council who, after consultation with the relevant portfolio holder will respond. Then a report on that Petition noting what action has been taken will be referred to the next meeting of Cabinet or Council for their information.

### **Risk Management**

Response to petition poses no considerable risk to the council.

### **Corporate**

Petitions are an important way of the public engaging with the Council on matters of importance to them and responses should be timely and in accordance with the Council's agreed procedures.

## **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 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: -

- To keep our district safe and clean
- To work efficiently for you

### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The Council received a petition with 56 valid signatures on 7 February 2024 relating to a request for the council and highways to remove the abandoned vehicles and unattached trailers outside Lyell Court and Briece Court in Lyell Road, Birchington.

### **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 The petition contained the following petition prayer:

*“Petition to Local Council and highways for the removal of vehicles and unattached trailers abandoned outside Lyell Court and Briece Court, Lyell Road, Birchington, Kent CT7 9EJ”*

### **2.2 The Response**

The formal response to the petition that was sent to the petitioner is attached at Annex 1 to the report.

### **3.0 Decision Making Process**

- 3.1 As indicated in the legal section of this report, under the terms of the Council's petitions scheme, if a petition has over 50, but less than 1500 signatories, it will be presented to a senior Officer of the Council who, after consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, will respond. Then a report on that Petition noting what action has been taken will be referred to the next meeting of Cabinet or Council for their information.

Contact Officer: Nicholas Hughes (Committee Services Manager)

Reporting to: Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)

#### **Corporate Consultation**

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

**Legal: Ingrid Brown (Head of Legal and Democracy & Monitoring Officer)**