

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
24 MARCH 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

Contact Officer:	Gemma George, Senior Governance Officer, Democratic Services	Tel. 01733 452268
------------------	--	-------------------

OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Directors	Deadline date : N/A
1. That Cabinet notes the action taken in respect of petitions presented to Full Council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the presentation of petitions to Full Council.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions in accordance with Standing Order 13, of the Council’s Rules of Procedure.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3 – ‘To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area’.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
---	-----------

4. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

4.1 Petition objecting to the poor levels of street lighting in Bradegate Drive / Clifton Court area

This petition was presented to full Council on 29 January 2014 by Councillor Adrian Miners and requested that the poor levels of street lighting in the Bradegate Drive / Clifton Court area, which had been made worse by the fitting of the new LED lighting, be reassessed for improvements. The Council’s Director of Growth and Regeneration responded stating that having received correspondence regarding this matter in 2013, the lighting levels in Bradegate Drive were double checked to ensure that the correct level of illumination was attained on the public highway. On completion of this exercise it was confirmed that the light levels on Bradegate Drive were at the correct level for a residential road. The lowest light level was at the back of the path/driveway to the side of properties 29 and 30 but this was not considered significant enough for a further column. However, upon reflection, unit 11 could be rotated by a small amount to potentially improve the perception of the lighting levels in this area. This had been ordered and would be completed shortly.

The lighting in the adopted footpath in front of properties 31 to 36 was illuminated in line with the appropriate British Standard. The footpath in front of properties 37 to 45 was not an adopted footpath and therefore as the scheme manager was informed, it would be

necessary to contact Waterloo Housing should the residents desire lighting in this area. The Council had contacted the housing association and informed them that residents would like additional lighting on the footpath.

The design of the new lanterns directed all light downwards towards the public highway, significantly reducing the amount of light spill. Therefore the amount of light reaching front doors, windows and private driveways etc. would be less than experienced with the previous lanterns. This could give the perception that the roads and footpaths were dark as the general all round glow emitted from the previous lanterns had been reduced, particularly if looking out of windows onto the street. However, the Council did not have a duty to light private property.

The LED lights provided a much clearer and cleaner light allowing for improved vision and colour rendering. Since changing the lanterns, there had been no representations from the Police or other bodies suggesting that there had been any negative effects as a result of changing the lanterns. At the end of the financial year there would be approximately 7000 LED units on the network with the view to continue to increase the volume year on year to maximise the energy efficiency of the street lighting network. This would also result in significant financial savings for the Council.

4.2 **Petition relating to parking issues along Allen Street**

This petition was presented to full Council on 29 January 2014 by Councillor Nazim Khan and requested that the Council looked into a number of parking issues, some of which related to enforcement matters, along Allen Road. The Council's Network Manager responded stating that he would visit the area to review the situation and to determine what action could be taken against the issues raised and also what could be done to improve the parking situation.

4.3 **Petition objecting to the Selective Licensing of Private Landlords**

This petition was presented to full Council on 29 January 2014 by a member of the public, Mrs Margaret Randall, opposing the selective licensing proposals and encouraging the Council to be open and transparent about the alternative 'remedies which it had considered'. The Council's Assistant Director for Communities and Targeted Services responded stating that work was being undertaken closely with the local campaign group, Communities Against Selective Licensing (CASL), to develop an alternative scheme to that which was originally proposed. This close working was delivered via a roundtable forum and a task and finish sub-group of that forum that comprised CASL representatives, individual landlords, letting agents and council officers. CASL led on both the e-petition and the petition that was handed in at Council.

The next meeting of the task and finish group was scheduled to take place on 10 March, and, if an alternative scheme could be agreed, a roundtable meeting for the whole group would be held ahead of a wider public meeting for the community. The revised proposal would then go back to Cabinet for debate.

Work would continue to be undertaken with CASL and the Council's Assistant Director for Communities and Targeted Services was optimistic that an alternative scheme could be developed that all parties could all commit to, that focused exclusively on criminal landlords, agents and bad tenants, and that in no way penalised those that were compliant with appropriate legislation'.

4.4 **Petition opposing the charge for the fortnightly collection of brown garden waste bins**

This petition was presented to full Council on 5 March 2014 by a member of the public, Mr Darrell Goodliffe, opposing the charge of £39 per year for the fortnightly collection of brown garden waste bins and urging that the Cabinet reconsider the proposal to impose this

charge and further urging Peterborough City Council to reject the proposal should it be made to them. The Council's Strategic Partnerships Manager responded stating that Councillors considered the issue alongside a number of other comments that had been made, including comments made directly to the Council, via social media and through the local paper, and decided by a vote of 29 to 21 to proceed with the Budget as proposed by Cabinet. This would mean that a charge would be introduced for the service from 27 May 2014. Residents signing up by 20 May would pay £36 and thereafter the charge would be £39.

4.5 **Follow up on Petition submitted to Council on 4 December 2013 objecting to the proposed closure of six Peterborough Children's Centres by Peterborough City Council**

This petition was presented to full Council on 4 December 2013 by a member of the public, Mrs Angela Brennan, requesting that the proposals to close down six children's centres and to restructure others, be rescinded. The Council's Director for Communities responded to the petition in the first instance, however as the petition contained a significant amount of signatures, totalling over 500, it was requested by the lead petitioner that the petition be debated by full Council. This debate took place at the meeting held on 29 January 2014.

Following debate at the meeting, a recommendation was proposed and agreed that:

'Cabinet defer any decision making on the proposals to close children's centres until further alternatives and proposals have been thoroughly explored, considered and consulted on'.

The report, 'Vision for Early Years Services Including Children's Centres' was presented to Cabinet on 3 February 2014, and members of the public were permitted to speak. Following debate and consideration of the report, the proposals contained therein for the delivery of the Children's Centres were approved.

A request to call-in the executive decision was made on 5 February 2014 and this call-in was considered and upheld by the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee where it was agreed that the decision be referred back to full Council for consideration and debate.

On 26 February 2014, the call-in referral was considered and debated by full Council at an extraordinary meeting. Council could either:

- (a) Not agree to the request to call-in, when the decision shall take effect immediately; or
- (b) Refer the decision back to the decision maker for reconsideration, setting out its concerns.

The call-in request was not agreed and the decision took effect immediately.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Standing Orders require that Council receive a report about the action taken on petitions. As the petitions presented in this report have been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers it is appropriate that the action taken is reported to Cabinet, prior to it being included within the Executive's report to full Council.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Any alternative options would require an amendment to the Council's Constitution to remove the requirement to report to Council.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

- 8.1 Petitions presented to full Council and responses from officers.