

<b>CABINET</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 13</b>
<b>13 JUNE 2011</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

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**UPDATE - PETITIONS**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM : Directors</b>	
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. 3.2.1 – 'to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council's Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council's overall improvements programmes to deliver excellent services'.

**3. TIMESCALE**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>
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**4. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS**

**4.1 Petition regarding the enclosure of the Spinney Walk public open space by the LEA run Longthorpe Primary School**

This petition was presented to full Council on 23 February by Councillor Arculus. The Council's Group Manager Development Management responded on 1 March 2011 stating that the proposal to fence off part of the shared open space / school playing field formed part of a planning application that also sought to build new classrooms at the school. Given the level of public interest in the fencing off of the shared open space / school playing field, the decision was made to remove this from the proposals. If a new application is made for the fencing off element, then this would be publicised and residents and Ward Councillors would be notified and would be able to comment on the proposal.

**4.2 Petition regarding the provision of a wide 20mph zone in Park Ward:**

This petition was presented to full Council on 23 February by Councillor Lowndes. The Council's Head of Planning, Transport and Engineering Services responded on 25 May stating that it was not appropriate for main distributor roads such as Broadway and Eastfield

Road to have a 20mph limit and on-street parking in many residential streets meant it was likely that vehicle speeds were already low. The cost of introducing a 20mph limit was not justified as the safety benefits were questionable although Inspector Glazebrook was supportive of the introduction. Safety measures had already been installed around Princes Street to alleviate some of the recurring vehicle conflicts.

#### 4.3 **Petition regarding the provision of an African Community Centre in Peterborough**

This petition was presented to full Council on 23 February 2011 by Mr Nyahsa Banhire. The Council's Head of Neighbourhoods responded on 15 April stating that unfortunately, due to restricted resources, it would not be possible to support the development of a new centre at this time. However, facilities could be shared within other community centres (a list was provided) and the John Mansfield Centre Project, which is intended to provide a base for a wide variety of community and cultural activities, was scheduled to be completed in 2012 and this could be of interest to the petitioner in his ambition.

#### 4.4 **Petition opposing the 15.5 hour cuts to the opening times at Bretton Library**

This petition was presented to full Council on 23 February 2011 by Mr Stuart Martin. The Council's Executive Director of Strategic Resources responded on 24 May stating that the proposed opening hours for Bretton Library had been reviewed and the library would continue to open 6 days a week but would now be open for 37 hours rather than the original proposal of being open for 29 hours.

#### 4.5 **Petition regarding the condition of pavements around Glenton Gardens**

This petition was presented to full Council on 13 April 2011 by Councillor Todd. The Council's Highway Maintenance Team Manager responded on 19 April 2011 advising that repair works had already been undertaken and a further inspection had also taken place which highlighted additional areas for repair and improvement works with an 18 hour works time to achieve this. The Officer further advised that Glenton Street had been put forward for consideration to be included on a future major footway resurfacing programme. However the earliest that this could occur would be during the 2012/13 year as the current year's programme was set; of course the location would have to go through an assessment process that allowed officers to prioritise the large number of sites put forward for major works.

### **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.