

CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
11 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor David Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	Pippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager	Tel. 452460

PETITIONS SCHEME UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance</i>	Deadline date: <i>N/A</i>
It is recommended that the Constitution and Ethics Committee recommend that Full Council approve the updated Petition Scheme as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Constitution and Ethics Committee following referral from the Director of Governance.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek consideration of updates to the Petition Scheme in relation to requests for verge parking restrictions.

2.2 This report is for Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.7.2.1, 'Authority to oversee the operation of the Council's Constitution and authority to make recommendations to Full Council as to amendments and improvements to the Council's Constitution (including the codes and protocols) subject to the receipt and consideration of a report prepared by the Monitoring Officer, with the exception of those matters under the remit of the Executive.'

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The main change proposed is in relation to parking on verge parking and pavements. There is a specific process in place for all members of the public who wish to request a restriction of verge or pavement parking in their area. This is outlined on the Council's website and administered by the Prevention and Enforcement Service (PES).

4.2 This process, however, is separate to the traditional Petition Scheme.

4.3 It has been the case that a petition has been received at a meeting of Council and has been progressed through the Petition Scheme, where this would, in fact, be more appropriately and effectively dealt with through the PES process.

4.4 Therefore, it is suggested, to avoid confusion, that requests to restrict parking on verges of pavements be excluded from the Petition Scheme.

4.5 It is important to note that this would not limit the ability of the public to register a wish for such restrictions, or submit a petition to request a restriction, this would simply be run through a different process than the Petition Scheme.

4.6 Further minor changes proposed include a clarification of what is meant by 'planning decision' and some additional detail on when responses would be published online.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with relevant officers in relation to the Petitions Scheme and the parking on grass verges and pavements.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 It is anticipated that the changes proposed will eliminate any duplication of work and will ensure that the public are clear as to the correct procedure to follow for submitting petitions and for requesting a restriction on verge parking.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 To ensure that the Petition Scheme is clear and accurate as to the correct procedures for the public to follow to have their voices heard in relation to different requests.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 To not update the Petition Scheme - This was dismissed, as not to exclude and redirect petitions requesting verge parking restrictions would duplicate work for officers and would allow uncertainty and a lack of clarity in the proper process to continue.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

9.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 Peterborough City Council Website, 'Parking on Grass Verges or Pavements' - <https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/parking/parking-on-grass-verges-or-pavements/>

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 - Part 5 Section 9 – Petition Scheme