

<b>CABINET</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
<b>3 FEBRUARY 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

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

## OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Directors</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
It is recommended that Cabinet notes the actions taken in respect of petitions.	

### 1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted following the submission of E-Petitions, the presentation of petitions to Council officers, and the presentation of petitions at Council meetings.

### 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 submitted to the Council.
- 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. TIMESCALES

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

#### **Petitions Received by the Council**

#### Peterborough Women's Centre

The petition was submitted by Rukhsana Kausar on 2 January 2020. The petition contained 135 valid signatures and stated that "women of Peterborough and surrounding areas need a safe and confidential place to learn and develop and integrate. The centre will be used by women and run by Peterborough's Women's Association a community group with over 2100 members."

The Service Director for Communities and Safety responded:

"We are writing in response to your petition for a Peterborough Women's Centre.

Firstly, thank you for suggesting the idea, and for the work you do in the city with your extensive membership. A women's centre in Peterborough is something that, in principle, the council would welcome. There are a number of critical factors, however, that would need to be addressed in order to consider the feasibility of exploring this further, such as:

identification and location of building  
business plan, including financial consideration of running costs and opportunities for income generation (including potential fundraising / sponsorship / contracts)  
agreeing the objectives and intended outcomes of the new centre  
governance of the management body

As I'm sure you'll appreciate, Peterborough City Council is not in a position to financially support such an enterprise, but would be committed to enabling a Women's Consortium to develop this further. We have had some initial discussions with PCVS, and our recommendation is that an approach is made to them with a view to facilitating a meeting with all interested parties (including the council) who wish to be involved in order to take this forward. We are happy to provide your contact details of PCVS to enable this discussion to go forward. Please confirm if you would like us to do this.

We look forward to working with you and supporting this initiative.”

### New Faith School

The petition was submitted by Tracy Butler on 7 January 2019, alongside an e-petition. The petitions contained a combined total of 240 valid signatures and called on the Council to, “reject proposals for religiously selective voluntary aided Catholic primary school in Hampton Water, and support a well-established alternative proposal for a community ethos school, suitable for pupils of all backgrounds.”

The Service Director for Education responded:

“Thank you for submitting your petition. The council is currently reviewing the responses we received the recently closed representation period for establishing a new catholic school following the statutory notice issued by the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia (RCDEA). The petition will be considered as part of the DfE’s Opening and closing maintained schools, statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers (DfE November 2018). The Council, as decision maker, must make its decision paying regard to the following factors:

- the consultation process
- demand versus need for new school places
- the proposed admission arrangements
- the national curriculum
- school size
- equal opportunities
- integration and community cohesion
- travel and accessibility
- funding
- school premises and playing fields
- suitability

A decision on the school will be made in due course.”

## **5. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 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.

**6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 There have been no alternative options considered.

**7. IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no legal, financial, or equalities implications arising from the issues considered.

**8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

8.1 Petitions presented to the Council and responses from officers.

**9. APPENDICES**

9.1 None.

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