

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 8</b>
<b>2 MARCH 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Simons, Cabinet Member for Waste, Street Scene, and the Environment	
Contact Officer(s):	Pippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager	Tel. 452460

**PETITION FOR DEBATE ‘SAVE PETERBOROUGH EMBANKMENT’**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Director of Law and Governance</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that Council either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note and take no action for the reasons put forward in the debate; or</li> <li>2. Refer the petition to either Cabinet, a Cabinet Member, or the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration having regard to the comments made in the course of debate.</li> </ol>	

**1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 A petition has been received by the Council with contains more than 500 valid signatures from people who live, work or study in the city. As such, the right to a debate of the petition by a meeting of the full Council has been triggered, according to the Petitions Scheme.

**2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

2.1 As set out in the Council’s Petitions Scheme, if a petition contains more than 500 signatures from people who live, work or study in the city, it may trigger the right to be debated by a meeting of the full Council.

2.2 On 11 October 2021 a petition was received by the Council from Martin Ferguson, which included eligible 787 signatures.

2.3 Mr Ferguson requested that the petition be debated at a meeting of Full Council, as per the Petitions Scheme.

2.4 The petition is titles ‘Save Peterborough Embankment’ and called upon the Council to:

*“Retain the Peterborough Embankment as public parkland.”*

Further background to the petition included:

*“With the increasing population of Peterborough the retention of the valuable green spaces we have becomes ever more important, especially within the city centre, which is rapidly turning into a concrete jungle. This embankment has been neglected for years by our council and lack of facilities presently restricts its use. Visiting events that bring facilities with them see fantastic attendances into the thousands and shows that there is great potential if properly managed.*

*The value this area brings to the public is immeasurable as space of reflection and unity and it also serves as protection in the way of flood defences, and acts as part of a wildlife corridor. To allow the construction of a stadium on a huge part of this site would be short sighted and for commercial gain at the expense of the whole of Peterborough, with the adjacent university buildings that will further encroach upon this site there will be very little public green space left.”*

### **3. IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial, legal, equalities, or Carbon Impact implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 Governance Implications – This report will be debated following the presentation of the petition. The Leader Petitioner has five minutes to present this petition. Members will then be invited to debate the request contain therein. The usual rules of procedure will apply to this debate. Each Member may speak once for no longer than 3 minutes. A Member may not speak again, except on a point of order, by way of a personal explanation, or by way of a statement of accuracy. The Mayor will invite a vote on the recommendations at the close of the debate.

### **4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

- 4.1 Peterborough City Council Petitions Scheme

### **5. APPENDICES**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Officer Response