



ARTICLE NO: 1D

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2013/14
Issue: 1**

Article of: Borough Solicitor

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)

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SUBJECT: PETITIONS UPDATE

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

1.1 To provide an update on the petitions received under the Council's Petition Scheme in 2012/13.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND E-PETITIONS FACILITY

2.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 required every local authority, from 15 June 2010, to have adopted a 'Petition Scheme' which set out how it would handle petitions, and by 15 December 2010 that every local authority had to have an on-line petition facility, under which any one may set up a petition on the Council's website, and other petitioners may 'sign up' to the petition on-line.

2.2 The Council at its meeting held in May 2010 approved a 'Petition Scheme' in line with Regulations and the statutory guidance created an e-petitions facility on 15 December 2010

2.3 In April 2012 under the Localism Act 2011, Chapter 2 of Part 1 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (petitions to local authorities) was repealed meaning that there is no longer a requirement to provide either a facility for making petitions electronically or to have a Petitions Scheme.

2.4 The Council, at its meeting held in July 2012, agreed to continue with a Petition Scheme and also providing an e-petition facility. The Scheme was amended to ensure that the Council still responds to petitions in an efficient and effective manner without the process being resource intensive. A copy of the revised Scheme can be found in Section 18.2 of the Council's Constitution.

3.0 PETITIONS RECEIVED

3.1 Details of those petitions received and dealt with under the petitions scheme in 2012/13 are contained in Appendix 1 to the report.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

4.1 Petitions are another method to enable local people to raise concerns with the Council providing a feedback mechanism for the community and improving access for all.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The cost of the stand-alone BMG E-Petitions module was £1500 which was funded from the ICT development programme 2010/11, as part of the web improvement plan. There is also an annual charge of £300 which includes any upgrades and support for the system, this is met from existing budgets.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 The Council is no longer required to produce a Petition Scheme, however providing a formal mechanism for the public and interested parties to submit petitions could be considered as good practice.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

This article is for information only and does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/ or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

1. Petitions received - 2012/13