



# Petitions Committee

24 April 2015

<b>Report title</b>	Mount Road, Lanesfield – various issues	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Peter Bilson Economic Regeneration and Prosperity	
<b>Wards affected</b>	Springvale	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
<b>Originating service</b>	Transportation	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Gwyn James	Transportation Manager
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	N/A	

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## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to endorse the proposed action to investigate the need for a possible road safety scheme in the Mount Road area.

## Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note

1. The comments provided in response to the various issues raised by the petitioners.
2. The actions taken since receipt of the petition.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To report the receipt of a petition raising a number of issues relating to Mount Road, Lanesfield, as detailed below.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In December 2014, a 50 signature petition was submitted to Wolverhampton City Council setting out various issues including, the number of MP's and Councillors representing Wolverhampton, a request to introduce traffic signals at the junction of Mount Road and Birmingham New Road, introduction of additional parking restrictions to reduce on-street parking, speed reduction measures, gulley cleansing and tree pruning in Mount Road.

## **3.0 Details of the petition**

- 3.1 The key points of concern within the petition are:

1. the number of Councillors/MP's representing Wolverhampton
2. the increase in Council Tax,
3. speeding on Mount Road,
4. parking measures on Mount Road,
5. traffic lights on Mount Road,
6. drains to be cleaned,
7. trimming trees,
8. Police officers on duty at Police stations.

- 3.2 Following receipt of the petition, officers from relevant sections of the Council have investigated the key points raised and their findings/actions are reported as follows:

1. With regard to the issue raised about the number of Councillors and MPs in Wolverhampton, the Council can decide that it wants to reduce the number of councillors. This has been proposed as a saving in the past. The boundary commission then have to consult on the proposal which is a process which takes a couple of years.
2. As a result of a huge reduction in the level of grant support received from central government, the Council is faced with having to reduce its annual spend by £134 million by 2018/19. The Council has identified savings valued of £88 million with another £46 million to find. The Council has kept the 2015/16 Council Tax increase to the absolute minimum needed to balance its budget for the year. This is only the second time in the last five years that the Council has voted to increase its annual Council Tax levels.

In 2015/16, the Council plans to spend almost £700 million providing day to day public services, of which £81 million (11%) is funded through monies raised by Council Tax. The 1.99% increase in 2015/16 will enable the Council to invest a further £4.4 million in essential services such as looking after vulnerable children and older

people. Without this extra resource, the Council would be faced with cutting or stopping vital services at a time when demand for many of those services is increasing year on year.

3. The Traffic and Road Safety team has commissioned speed surveys at two locations on Mount Road. The team will analyse the speed data when available and will then investigate the need for possible speed reduction measures depending on the results of the surveys.
4. There are “No Waiting at Any Time” parking restrictions in the vicinity of the junction of Mount Road and Birmingham New Road, designed to protect visibility for vehicles manoeuvring at the junction and to ensure the free flow of traffic. Current parking conditions and any need to introduce additional restrictions will be considered in conjunction with measures considered necessary to control speed on Mount Road.
5. The Traffic and Road Safety team are currently investigating accident and junction movement data and will investigate whether any improvements could be made at the junction of Mount Road and Birmingham New Road.
6. Road drains in Mount Road are cleansed on an annual basis in January. Further to this enquiry the Public Realm team arranged for the drains in Mount Road to be cleaned ahead of schedule in December 2014.
7. There are no highway trees on Mount Road. There would appear to be some trees at the southern end of the road that are on housing land (managed by Wolverhampton Homes) and a number of private hedges; however none of these would fall under the responsibility of the Council to maintain.
8. With regard to the issue raised about the number of policemen on duty in police stations in Wolverhampton, this is out of the control of Wolverhampton City Council. Petitioners are advised to contact the West Midlands Police Authority should they wish to pursue this issue.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications to this report. Any possible highway improvements would need to be included in the Transportation Capital Programme for future years, subject to Cabinet approval. [MF/10042015/B]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 To reduce the number of councillors, a legal process would need to be followed with the Boundary Commission. The Council, as a local traffic authority under the Traffic Management Act 2004, has general duties to manage the road network. There are no other direct legal implications arising from this report. [EB/14042015/J]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no specific equality implications associated with this report. However if any requirement for highway improvements is identified and appropriate funding is identified, then a full equality analysis will be undertaken.

## **7.0 Environmental implications**

7.1 This initial report has no environmental implications.

## **8.0 Human resources implications**

8.1 There are no human resources issues.

## **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

9.1 There are no corporate landlord issues.

## **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

10.1 None