

# Scrutiny Board

13 September 2016

<b>Report title</b>	Schedule of Petitions	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Milkinderpal Jaspal, Governance	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Democracy	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Julia Cleary	Scrutiny and Systems Manager
	Tel	01902 555046
	Email	<a href="mailto:julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk">julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>		

---

## Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

1. note petitions with fewer than 50 signatures received during July and August 2016 and the action taken by officers following consideration by the relevant Head of Service;
2. note petitions with between 50-2,499 signatures received during July and August 2016 and which scrutiny body the Head of Governance has referred them to for consideration;
3. note the update detailed at section 4 in relation to the petition received on 25 November 2015 regarding the closure of Warstones Resource Centre.
4. agree that the Board receive an annual report at the start of the municipal year detailing actions taken in relation to all petitions received by the Council, to be presented in the form of a performance indicator.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the schedule of petitions received during July and August 2012, attached at Appendix 1, and to note actions taken in response to them.

To consider the update in relation to the petition received on 25 November 2015 regarding the closure of Warstones Resource Centre.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Following the recent review of the Council's Petitions Scheme, revised arrangements for the consideration of petitions received by the Council were agreed by Full Council at its meeting held on 18 May 2016.

## **3.0 Implementation and Monitoring of the Petitions Scheme**

- 3.1 All petitions submitted to the Council are received and monitored by Democratic Services.
- 3.2 Following receipt, petitions will be forwarded to the relevant service which will confirm if the Council can do what the petition asks.
- 3.3 Petitions with fewer than 50 signatures are assigned to the relevant Head of Service for action. A summary is then reported to the next Scrutiny Board and the relevant Cabinet Member(s).
- 3.4 Petitions with 50-2,499 signatures are referred to the appropriate scrutiny panel by the Head of Governance. The relevant Head of Service will recommend to the Panel the most suitable course of action to address the issues raised, which could include review by the Executive.
- 3.5 Petitions with more than 2,499 signatures are considered by Full Council.
- 3.6 As well as ensuring implementation of the Scheme, Democratic Services also monitor actions taken in response to petitions. It is suggested that the Scrutiny Board receive an annual report at the start of the municipal year presenting this information in the form of a performance indicator. This would ensure that the Board are informed of actions taken in relation to all petitions received by the Council, including those considered by other scrutiny bodies and Full Council.

## **4.0 Update on petition received on 25 November 2015 regarding the closure of Warstones Resource Centre.**

- 4.1 The Move of Warstones Office Base (Completion of 2013/14 savings proposal) was included within the savings proposals that were submitted to Cabinet on 21 October 2015 as part of the Budget Report 2016/17.

- 4.2 The Warstones location was the office base for a number of community groups.
- 4.3 A petition was received on the 25 November 2015 from Mr William Baugh, tutor of one of the community groups located at Warstones. The petition containing 852 signatures, from residents of the City was opposed to the closure of Warstones Resource Centre.
- 4.4 Following the decision taken at Petitions Committee, the City of Wolverhampton (CWC) continued to support the tutor of the painting group with the facilitation of Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and the relocation of the group to Beckminister.
- 4.5 The groups that continued to operate have relocated and are continuing to do well.
- Painting Club – Relocated to Beckminister
  - IT Group –Relocated to Warstones library
  - Tai Chi -Relocated to Beckminister Methodist
  - Yoga – Relocated to Bob Jones Centre
- 4.6 Warstones is now with Corporate landlord for disposal.

## **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with the report recommendations. The administration of the proposed petition processes will not require any additional resources.  
[MH/31082016/J]

## **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 The Petitions Scheme referred to in this report ensures that the Council meets its obligations under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to have a mechanism for consideration of petitions from the public.  
[TS/26082016/P]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

- 7.1 The proposals outlined in this report do not require an equalities analysis. The recommendations will not affect the Council's practice of encouraging, considering and responding to petitions.

## **8.0 Environmental implications**

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

## **9.0 Human resources implications**

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

**10.0 Corporate landlord implications**

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

**11.0 Schedule of background papers**

N/A

## Appendix 1 Schedule of petitions received

Date Received	Issue Raised	Number of Signatories	Responsible Officer	Status and Action Taken
	Positive Participation – Commissioned Asian Mental Health Issues	1	N/A	Status – Closed. No signatures were added to the online petition by the deadline of 15 July 2016.
6 July 2016	01–2016 - Road Safety Issues - Richmond Road / Horsehill Drive (Park Ward)	42	Gwyn James, Head of Strategic Transportation Education & Enterprise	Status – Closed. The lead signatory was presented with a revised parking scheme, which he was satisfied with and withdrew the petition.
7 July 2016	Request for No Ball Zone in Carlyle Grove (Fallings Park Ward)	28	Andrew Bryant, Anti-social Behaviour Team Leader, Housing Operations	Status – Ongoing An Anti-social Behaviour Officer personally posted paperwork to the lead petitioner. A response has not yet been received. Reminder letter sent out 02.09.16 for template
1 August 2016	02-2016 - Parking Restrictions Relating to Malins Road & Greenly Road (Blakenhall Ward)	67	Nick Broomhall, Service Lead – Traffic & Road Safety	Status – Closed. The petition was substantially similar to a previous petition received. The lead petitioner has been written to.
15 August 2016	03-2016 - Reclamation of Lunt Road/Queen Street Wasteland (next to Bilston Town Football Ground) (Bilston East Ward)	193	Ross Cook, Service Director – City Environment	Status – Ongoing.  To be considered by the Vibrant and Sustainable Scrutiny Panel, 29 September 2016

This report is PUBLIC  
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Date Received	Issue Raised	Number of Signatories	Responsible Officer	Status and Action Taken
23 August 2016	Tithe Road	23	Andrew Bryant, Anti-social Behaviour Team Leader, Housing Operations	Status - Ongoing  An acknowledgement letter to be sent advising that an officer will respond to their petition
30 August 2016	04-2016 - Childrens Play Area at West Park - August 2016	113 To be checked		Status – Ongoing  To be considered by the Vibrant and Sustainable Scrutiny Panel 29 September 2016