

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Governance and Ethics Committee 16 March 2023
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Report title	Schedule of Petitions	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
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Report to be/has been considered by	N/a	

Recommendations for noting:

The Governance and Ethics Committee is asked to note:

1. The actions taken in relation to all petitions received by the Council during the last year.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To note the actions taken in relation to petitions received by the Council during the last six months attached at Appendix 1.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the Council meeting on 3 November 2021, Council approved the revised Petitions Scheme.
- 2.2 Section 46 of the Localism Act 2011 repealed all of Chapter 2 of the Local Democracy Economic Development & Construction Act 2009, which in essence removed the requirements for local authorities to have a statutory petitions scheme. Therefore, the Council now has greater discretion in how it decides to deal with citizens' petition.
- 2.3 However, it is still considered good practice for a Council to retain a petitions scheme as it sends a clear message to the public that the Council takes their views seriously and encourages their engagement in the democratic process.

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 who will confirm if the Council can action the petition.
- 3.3 Petitions with fewer than 2499 signatures are considered and responded to by employees, within 28 days of receipt by the relevant service area. A summary of responses will be reported to the relevant Cabinet Member(s), and the relevant Ward Members.
- 3.4 Petitions with 2500 – 4999 signatures are considered by the relevant scrutiny panel with recommendation made for action by employees or review by the Executive as appropriate.
- 3.5 Petitions with more than 5000 signatures are considered by Full Council.
- 3.6 It is suggested that the Governance and Ethics Committee receive a quarterly/six monthly report presenting this information. This would ensure that the Committee are informed of actions taken in relation to all petitions by the Council, including those considered by other scrutiny bodies and Full Council.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report as Councillors are asked only to note the actions taken in relation to petitions received by the Council. [GE/17022023/J]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 The duty for local authorities to operate a statutory petition scheme was abolished by the Localism Act 2011. [TC/22022023/D]]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 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.

7.0 All other implications

7.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

8.1 Revised Petitions Scheme, Council, 3 November 2021

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1: Schedule of Petitions