

9 June 2022**Agenda Item: 11****REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, LEGAL, DEMOCRATIC AND INFORMATION
GOVERNANCE****REVIEW OF PETITIONS SCHEME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider amendments to the petitions scheme in light of the change in governance model to a Leader and Cabinet (Executive) arrangement.

Information

2. The current petitions scheme was reviewed in September 2018. The change in May 2022 in the governance model to an Executive arrangement means that the scheme needs to be amended as service Committees that would have considered petitions have been replaced with Cabinet Member portfolios.
3. There is no longer a statutory requirement to have a petitions scheme, however the petitions scheme is well used and is an effective route for the public to engage with the Council on matters they wish to raise. The newly revised Constitution sets out the process for petitions to be presented to the Chairman at Full Council and then passed for consideration to the relevant Cabinet Member.
4. A number of minor changes are proposed to the scheme:
 - a. That petitions presented at Full Council will be passed to the appropriate Cabinet Member for consideration (instead of to a Committee);
 - b. Clarification that petitions will initially be reviewed against any Council policies, procedures or legislation and a response provided; and
 - c. If further consideration of the petition is needed examples of the steps that might be taken to gather information in order to respond to the petitioner.
5. The revised petitions scheme is included in the Appendix.

Other Options Considered

6. Whilst there is no longer a statutory requirement for a petitions scheme, the petitions process has been retained as it is well used and is an effective way for the public to engage with the Council and raise matters that they wish the Council to consider.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To update the scheme following the change in governance model to a Leader and Cabinet (Executive) arrangement.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Data Protection and Information Governance

9. The storing of information contained within a petition is done in compliance with the Council's privacy notice.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) To approve the amendments to the Council's petitions scheme.

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Constitutional Comments (SSR 16/05/2022)

10. The recommendations fall within the scope of matter which may be approved by Governance and Ethics Committee

Financial Comments (SES 13/05/2022)

11. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All