



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

SLT	1 December 2020
Council	15 December 2020

Wards affected: All wards

Review of the council's Petition Scheme

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To propose an updated Petition Scheme.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The proposed scheme be adopted.

3. Background to the report

3.1 The current Petition Scheme was adopted in 2010 in accordance with Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 which contained specific requirements for a Petition Scheme. These requirements were subsequently relaxed but we retained the adopted scheme.

3.2 In reviewing the scheme we looked at the types of petitions received under the scheme and the expectations of petition organisers. The revised scheme therefore contains the following amendments:

- A change in the wording relating to actions that may be taken by removing the words 'calling an officer to give evidence' – this does not change the action in practice, but simplifies the options available
- Reduction of the number of signatures required for a Council debate from 2000 to 1500 to make it easier to achieve the number of signatures
- Amended the suggestion that all petitions with 750 signatures are automatically considered by the Scrutiny Commission and all petitions with 1500 signatures are automatically considered by Council to read that the petition can request that these actions be taken

- Included provision for the matter to be dealt with under the corporate complaints procedure should the petition organiser be unhappy with the way their petition has been handled
- Removal of the schedule of signatures required in individual parishes as this caused confusion and was largely irrelevant due to the practice of collecting signatures from outside of the parish.

4. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

4.1 To be taken in open session.

5. Financial implications (IB)

5.1 None.

6. Legal implications (MR)

6.1 Set out in the report.

7. Corporate Plan implications

7.1 The recommendations within this report concern a democratic process and therefore support all corporate aims.

8. Consultation

8.1 The Constitution Working Group, which is made up of representatives of all political groups on the Council, considered and supported the proposed scheme.

9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
No risks		

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 10.1 Whilst this report does not impact any group more than another, it does aim to improve accessibility to democratic processes by making the scheme clearer and reducing the number of signature required for a Council debate.
- 10.2 This does not propose a new service or change so significant that it would require an equality impact assessment.

11. Climate implications

- 11.1 Amending the Petition Scheme does not itself have climate implications, however individual petitions received under the scheme would be assessed on their own merits.

12. Corporate implications

- 12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:
- Community safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data protection implications
 - Voluntary sector

Background papers: None

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