



South Tyneside Council

item 12

Report to Council

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Neighbourhoods and Climate Change – Councillor Ernest Gibson

Report of Stuart Wright, Director of Place Strategy

Subject: Response to Petition Submitted to Council

Date: 5th September 2024

Wards affected: Riverside, Beacon and Bents and Westoe

Council ambitions: “Healthy and well” and “Part of Strong Communities”

Does the report and any appendices contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?

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Yes

State the applicable paragraph number(s) under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972: paragraph 3 of part 1

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No, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

For Executive Decisions only:

Is the decision a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

If not in the Forward Plan is the report: General Exception Rule

Relevant Scrutiny Chair: Cllr John McCabe

Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? No

(If the decision is anything other than any executive decision made by the Cabinet or a Key Decision made by an officer under delegated powers, call-in is not applicable. This should be explained in the report.)

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides updates to the action that has been taken in respect of the petitions received by Borough Council at its meeting on 14th March 2024.

Background Information

- 2.1 South Tyneside Council (STC) welcomes petitions and recognises that petitions are an important way in which people can let the Council know their concerns.
- 2.2 Rule 9 of the Council Procedure Rules sets out how local people can submit a petition to STC and how the Council will respond.
- 2.3 Under Rule 9.14 the 'appropriate body' (i.e. Cabinet or the relevant senior officer in the case of an executive function or the relevant committee, sub-committee, CAF or senior officer in the case of a non-executive function) must record the action it has taken on a petition and report back to Borough Council no later than the second ordinary meeting after the meeting when the petition was first presented.
- 2.4 There was two valid petitions presented to Full Council at a previous meeting on 14th March 2024.
- 2.5 The first petition was in respect of Commercial Road, South Shields and a request for a formalised crossing facility. The second petition was to request the removal of the associated barrier from St. George's Avenue, South Shields.

Petition One – Commercial Road

- 3.1 The petition requests the Council for a safe way to cross Commercial Road, South Shields. With a request that either speed bumps or a zebra crossing are investigated further. It is considered that the small median in the middle of Commercial Road is inadequate for crossing safely especially those with families, old or disabled and concerns have been raised on the reported accidents on this road.
- 3.2 The petition included 204 signatories, 95 of those in the Borough.
- 3.3 The petition was referred to the Director of Place & Communities as the relevant Appropriate Body.

Appropriate Body response

- 4.1 The Council is currently investigating the request to consider the introduction of a formalised crossing facility on Commercial Road, as requested as part of the petition. This will require an assessment of the pedestrian / traffic flows along with undertaking the required speed check analysis by the Council's Road Safety Team.
- 4.2 Once this assessment has been completed, this will denote as to whether a formalised crossing facility can be considered. If this is the case, then officers will

then draft scheme proposals which will be subject to the appropriate community engagement and required consultation with elected members and local residents.

Petition Two – Removal of the St. George's Avenue barrier

- 5.1 This petition requests the Council to remove the associated barrier at St George's Avenue, South Shields.
- 5.2 The petition included 813 total signatories, 450 of those in the Borough.
- 5.3 The petition was referred to the Director of Place & Communities as the relevant Appropriate Body.

Appropriate Body response

- 6.1 The Council removed the barrier in March 2024, with the Council further investigating alternative options for traffic calming in the area.
- 6.2 Informal consultation has been undertaken on this scheme with elected members and local residents, with further discussions to proceed with elected members on a potential way forward.

Financial and Value for Money Implications Resources

- 5.1 The financial implications resulting from the report are that if any scheme is brought forward for implementation, following an appraisal of the investigations and consultation / engagement undertaken, then the Infrastructure and Transport team would look to fund this using existing external funding provided through the Local Transport Plan funding.

Legal implications

- 6.1 Should any scheme coming forward for implementation that requires traffic calming measures, the Council would use the required legal frameworks to gain the relevant powers to proceed with the scheme.

Risks and Opportunities Implications

- 7.1 There are considered to be minimal risks or opportunity implications resulting from the report.

Equality and Diversity and Community

- 8.1 From an equality, diversity and community perspective, any scheme proposals that are brought forward will need to undertake the required community engagement / consultation with elected members and the general public, before determining if the schemes are implemented.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 9.1 In terms of the Environmental and Sustainability implications resulting from this report, the Council will look to ensure that any schemes are considerate to the environment and have sustainability embedded into the proposals.

Recommendations

- 10.1 Council is asked to note the content of the report for information.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 11.1 To ensure the requirements of Council Procedure Rule 9.14 are met, and that Full Council is able to note the action by the Appropriate Body taken on the petition presented at a previous meeting of Borough Council.

background papers background papers background papers

Petition to use enforcement powers to improve the condition of the former Whitburn Lodge building.

The following is a list of the background papers (excluding exempt papers) relied upon in the preparation of the above report:

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location
	N/A	