

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	FULL COUNCIL
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	7 OCTOBER 2020
<b>Title:</b>	PETITION SCHEMES
<b>Author:</b>	BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER
<b>Status:</b>	FOR DECISION

### **Purpose**

This report sets out proposed amendments to the Council's petition scheme.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council approves the amendments to the Council's petition scheme (attached in Appendix A)**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
<b>1.1</b>	The Council has a number of mechanisms by which members of the public can present their views to the Council and its Boards and Committees.
<b>1.2</b>	The Council's current petition scheme needs to be updated to reflect amendments to the Council's Board structure.
<b>1.3</b>	This report requests that the Council approve proposed amendments to the Council's petition scheme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Report</b>
<b>2.1</b>	The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 includes provisions relating to the right of the public to present petitions to the Council and for the Council then to be under a duty to take action on them. The provisions relating to petitions came into effect on 15 June 2010.
<b>2.2</b>	The Council adopted its current petition scheme on 14 July 2010 having regard to and based on the model scheme in the guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government).
<b>2.3</b>	This scheme needs to be updated to reflect the change in the Board structure of the Council.
<b>2.4</b>	Previously, a petition containing at least 750 signatures could request that a Senior Officer give evidence to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. To reflect the amended Board structure, it is proposed that this be amended so

	that Senior Officers can be requested to give evidence to the relevant service Board.
<b>2.5</b>	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was also responsible for reviewing the Council's response to a petition, if a request to do so was received from a petition organiser if they felt the response was inadequate. It is proposed that this become the responsibility of the Policy and Organisation Board.
<b>2.6</b>	In reviewing the petition scheme, some additional, minor, amendments have also been identified, updating the out of date external contacts and references. These amendments have also been included in the proposed scheme.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
<b>3.1</b>	The Council's Petition Scheme as set out in Appendix A satisfies the statutory requirements and also has regard to the guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

<b>Financial Services comments:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Legal Services comments:</b>	<i>Contained within the report</i>
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Climate Change implications:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Crime and Disorder:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Service Improvement Plan implications:</b>	<i>NA</i>
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	<i>Improved public engagement</i>
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	The Council has to adopt a Petition Scheme in order to comply with the statutory requirements.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<i>Full Council report 'Petition Schemes' 14 July 2010</i>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<i>Appendix A – Gosport Borough Council Petition Scheme.</i>
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