



# Report to Council

30 MAY 2012

LEADER	PETITIONS: ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12	WARDS
	The annual report to Council on the operation of the Council's Petitions Scheme.	All
CONTRIBUTORS	<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u>	
Petitions Officer Monitoring Officer	That the Council continue to operate the Petitions Scheme as outlined in paragraph 2.4. be agreed.  That the operation of the Council's Petitions Scheme be noted.	

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The Council on 30 June 2010 adopted a Petitions Scheme in accordance with the requirements of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The Council's Scheme drew upon the model Petitions Scheme published by DCLG. The Scheme included a commitment to submit an annual report to the Council containing the following information:
- the subject matter of all petitions received during the year;
  - the number of signatures to each petition;
  - a summary of the Council's response to each petition;
  - any recommendations for changes to the Scheme in the light of experience with its operation.
- 1.2 On 24 September 2010 DCLG wrote to all Local Authority Chief Executives to advise that with immediate effect the Government had withdrawn 'Listening to communities: Statutory guidance on the duty to respond to petitions'. Despite repealing the statutory guidance, local authorities were still legally bound to "provide a facility for making petitions in electronic form". The Council introduced an E-petitions facility late in 2010 in compliance with this requirement. From 1

April 2012, the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 related to petitions were repealed. The consequence is that the Council does not have to have operate a petition scheme unless its wants to do so on a voluntary basis. It is recommended that the Council continue to operate the Petition scheme providing another avenue for residents to engage with the democratic process.

## **2. Annual Report 2011/12**

- 2.1 The information referred to in paragraph 1.1 above is set out in the Appendix to this report.
- 2.2 The Scheme has worked well over the past two years. In 2011/12, thirteen petitions were received, of which nine were valid. Seven of the nine petitions were considered and responded to. Cabinet received a petition, two were considered by Cabinet Members and six officers. Two additional petitions were submitted online but nobody signed them. While the Council also received another two invalid petitions related to Walnut Tree at rear of 8 Fulham Park Gardens and a petition against a Parking Enforcement Officer.
- 2.3 The Scheme also allows people living, working or studying in the borough to petition an Overview and Scrutiny Committee but this has not happened during the period under review. Some petitioners have, however, addressed Scrutiny Committees using the deputation route which provides them with similar speaking rights as for deputations to Cabinet.
- 2.4 Council meeting on 30 June 2010, agreed the number of signatures required for each category of petition at levels outlined below. The limits were set at a level to encourage residents and other interested parties to access the democratic process. The threshold limits only relate to the decision making routes referred to below, all petitions received by the Council which falls below these thresholds will continued to be considered by officers in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member. Once an issue has been considered by a decision maker under the scheme, a subsequent petition on the same issue will not be reconsidered by another decision maker because it has exceeded the next signature threshold.

### **Summary of Petition Types, Requirements and Decision Maker.**

<b>Type of Petition</b>	<b>Proposed Threshold (Number of Signatories)</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>
Council Debate	5000	Full Council
Call an Officer to give evidence	2000	Select Committee or Scrutiny Board
Petitions to Cabinet	250	Cabinet
Petitions to Cabinet Members	100	Relevant Cabinet Member(s)

**3. Comments of the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Governance**

3.1 There are no financial implications to this report.

**4. Comments of the Director (Legal and Democratic Services)**

4.1 The comments of the Director are within this report.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**  
**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description of Background Papers</b>	<b>Name/Ext of holder of file/copy</b>	<b>Department/ Location</b>
1.	Various Petitions submitted during the year.	Kayode Adewumi ext. 2499	Finance and Corporate Governance, Head Governance and Scrutiny
<b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>		<b>NAME:</b> Kayode Adewumi <b>EXT.</b> 2499	

**APPENDIX**

**PETITIONS RECEIVED BY THE COUNCIL IN 2011/12**

<b>No.</b>	<b>PETITION SUBJECT</b>	<b>SUBMITTED TO:</b>	<b>No. OF SIGNATURES</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
1.	White City Development Scheme	Cabinet Member for Environment and Asset Management	56	Letter from Cabinet Member to petition organiser.
2.	Divert traffic from Townmead Road to William Morris Way	Cabinet 18 July 2011	600	Cabinet considered the petition and noted the views of the residents opposing the option to divert traffic from Townmead Road to William Morris Way.
3.	Save Our Skies - Woodlands Tower	Cabinet Member for Environment and Asset Management	177	Letter from Cabinet Member to petition organiser.
4	Philpot Square - Double Glazed Units	7 July 2011	30	Officer Response
5.	Request for the Installation of a Lift at William Morris House	7 July 2011	27	Officer Response
6.	Banim Street Sheltered Accommodation	18 July 2011	11	Officer Response
7.	Improved bike security - St. Peter's Conservation area	26 July 2011	2	Officer Response
8.	Petition to prevent the return of anti social neighbours to upstairs flat 38 Oakbury Road	25 October 2011	18	Officer Response
9.	North End Ward Police Cuts	19 August 2011		Officer Response

Invalid

1.	Fox & Hound Pub	28 August 2011	Nobody signed the E-Petition	No response
2.	Reduce North End Road Traffic	24 January 2012	Nobody signed the E-Petition	No response
3.	Petition – Walnut Tree at rear of 8 Fulham Park Gardens	23 November 2011	Not Applicable	Invalid petition because it related to a current planning application. To be submitted to a future meeting of Planning Applications Committee as part of the consultation documentation.
4.	Petition Against Parking Enforcement Officer	8 March 2012	Not Applicable	Invalid as the Council's Petition Scheme was not designed for complaints such as this.