

MINUTE EXTRACT

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 14 DECEMBER 2021

24 REVISION OF THE PETITION SCHEME

The Director of Law and Governance introduced the report which provided the Committee with a proposed revised petition scheme for consideration and adoption. The scheme as presented to the Committee provided members with a range of options for inclusion in the final scheme to be recommended to Council, these included:

- The time allowed to present a petition
- The required notice period for a petition to be considered by a Committee or Council
- The inclusion of a call for evidence for officers and members and if so the number of signatories required to trigger it
- The inclusion of a full council debate and if so the number of signatories required to trigger it
- The inclusion of an option to prevent repetitive petitions
- The inclusion of a right to review
- Options for how the Council will respond

The Chair sought the views of members on each of the options presented for discussion within the proposed scheme. Following detailed discussions on the various options, the Committee agreed that –

- Petitions should be presented 10 working days in advance of a meeting, with Chairs having final discretion
- 3 minutes be permitted for the introduction of petitions
- Call for evidence was not required
- A petition with 5,000 signatures triggers a debate at Council
- Council should not consider a matter further if a petition has been received on the same issue within the previous 6 months
- No right to review be included

It was proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart, that the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to amend the revised petition scheme to reflect the comments of the Committee and the updated scheme be referred to Council for decision. The motion was put and agreed by assent. It was therefore –

Resolved – That the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to amend the revised petition scheme to reflect the comments of the Committee and the updated scheme be referred to Council for decision.