

Local Members' Interest
Sandra Hambleton Bradwell, Porthill and Wolstanton

**Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee
25 July 2014**

**Petition – Request for Traffic Calming Measures – Bradwell Lane,
Newcastle**

Recommendation

1. That the Committee considers the evidence given by the Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive in response to the Petition regarding a request for traffic calming measures at Bradwell Lane, Newcastle, and decides what, if any, action to take in response.

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager

Summary

What is the Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?

1. Under the Council's Petition Scheme (in Section 4 of the Council's Constitution), named Senior Officers are required to attend Scrutiny Committee meetings to give evidence about the issues raised by petitions with over 2,500 signatures. A petition with 2,707 signatures has been received requesting traffic calming measures at Bradwell Lane, Newcastle.
2. The Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive is the Senior Officer named in the Petitions scheme who is responsible for the issues outlined in the petition and she has been invited to attend the meeting to respond to the issues it raises. Members have an opportunity to ask questions and will then have to decide what, if any, action to take in response.
3. The Committee may decide to make recommendations to Cabinet or Cabinet Members, conduct further scrutiny enquiries or take no action if no action is required. A copy of the Committee's findings will be sent to the petitions organiser following the meeting.

Report

Background

4. Chapter 2 of The Local Democracy, Economy Development and Construction Act 2009¹ required the County Council to adopt a petitions scheme setting out how it deals with petitions from local residents. Section 16 of the Act requires the Council to make provision within the scheme for named Senior Officers to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committees to give evidence in response to petitions with a specified number of signatures agreed by the Council
5. The County Council agreed its petition scheme at its meeting on 20 May 2010 and specified that the threshold for petitions requiring a Senior Officer to give evidence would be 2,500 signatures. The Petitions Scheme can be found attached to Section 4 – Citizens Rights of the Council's Constitution.
6. Ms Emma Meadon submitted a petition with 2,707 signatures to the full Council meeting. The petition was organised by Ms Meadon and requested the following traffic calming measures around Bradwell Lane, Newcastle: traffic lights installed at the Arnold Grove/Clare Avenue junction; speed cameras installed along Bradwell Lane; and, speed signs and weight limit restriction signs. As this petition met the criteria for a Senior Officer to attend a Select Committee meeting, once the number of signatures had been verified Ms Meadon was advised that arrangements would be made for the Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive to attend a meeting in due course.
7. A timetable for dealing with the debate on the petition is attached (Appendix 1) giving the opportunity for the petition organiser and local Members to address the Committee and answer questions as well as the Director's own evidence.
8. When the Committee has concluded its discussions on the petition a copy of its deliberations and findings will be sent to Ms Needham as the petition organisation setting out what further action, if any, will be taken.
9. **Link to Strategic Plan** – Responding to petitions and giving members of the public the opportunity to attend meetings to hold senior officers to account contributes to the priority of ensuring **Staffordshire's people are involved in shaping their quality of life**. The specific issues raised by the petition relate to the priority that **Staffordshire communities can access, enjoy and benefit from a range of learning, recreational and cultural activities**.
10. **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity** – The Committee may decide to undertake further scrutiny work on the issues raised by the petition.
11. **Equalities and Legal Implications** – The Committee will need to have regard to any equalities issues in deciding what action to take. Any action the Committee takes will have to be within their powers set out in the Council's constitution

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/20/contents>

12. **Resource and Value for Money Implications** – The Committee should have regard to the resource and value for money implications of any action they propose to take.
13. **Risk Implications** – The Committee should have regard to the risk implications of any action they propose to take.
14. **Climate Change Implications** – The Committee should have regard to the climate changes implications of any action they propose to take.
15. **Health Impact Assessment screening** – N/a

Contact Officer

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Appendices/Background papers

County Council's Petition Scheme (Section 4 of the Constitution)

Timetable for dealing with petition for Senior Officers giving evidence at Select Committees

Process	People	Timings
Lead Petitioner to address the Committee on the content of the petition	<i>Ms Meadon</i>	<i>10 minutes (+ questions)</i>
Local Member to address the Committee on the content of the petition NB Mrs Hambleton is unable to attend due to civic duties. She will be sending her comments in writing and these will be shared with the Select Committee	<i>Sandra Hambleton, County Councillor for Bradwell, Porthill and Wolstanton</i>	<i>10 minutes (+ questions)</i>
Senior Officer to give evidence and respond to questions from Committee Members	<i>Richard Harris, Community Infrastructure Manager on behalf of Helen Riley, Director for Place and Deputy Chief Executive</i>	<i>10 minutes (+ questions)</i>
Committee deliberation and outcome (i.e. do they wish to make any recommendations to the Officer or to Cabinet)	Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee Members	

NB The Chairman may direct questions from Committee members to individual speakers during this process.