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MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	Wednesday, 13 November 2019
TIME:	10.00 am
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Petitions

5. Petitions received under Standing Order 44 (Cab.13.11.2019/5) (*Pages 3 - 8*)

To: Chair and Members of Cabinet:-

Councillors Houghton CBE (Chair), Andrews BEM, Bruff, Cheetham, Gardiner, Howard, Lamb and Platts

Cabinet Support Members:

Councillors Charlesworth, Franklin, Frost, Saunders, Sumner and Tattersall

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Chair of Audit Committee

Sarah Norman, Chief Executive
Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director People
Matt Gladstone, Executive Director Place
Wendy Lowder, Executive Director Communities
Julia Burrows, Director Public Health
Andrew Frosdick, Executive Director Core Services
Michael Potter, Service Director Business Improvement and Communications
Neil Copley, Service Director Finance (Section 151 Officer)
Katie Rogers, Head of Communications and Marketing
Anna Marshall, Scrutiny Officer
Martin McCarthy, Service Director Governance, Members and Business Support

Corporate Communications and Marketing

Please contact Martin McCarthy on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

6th November, 2019

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BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report of the Chief Executive

Petitions received under Standing Order 44

1. Purpose of Report

To consider action in respect of petitions received by the Chief Executive under Standing Order 44.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet agree the action to be taken in response to the petitions referred to in the report in line with the Council's Petitions Scheme.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council's Standing Order 44 requires that "All petitions relating to a matter over which the Council ... has authority or which affects the Borough shall be presented to the Chief Executive who shall refer them to the relevant officer for investigation."
- 3.2 The Petitions Scheme, which was revised in April, 2013, requires petitions to be reported into Cabinet. This report sets out recent petitions received and the recommended response.
- 3.3 Whilst the report of petitions to Cabinet fulfils this duty requirement, Cabinet may wish to consider further action, such as referring any petition to the relevant Area Council.

4. Details of Petitions Received

- 4.1 Details of the petitions received up to this meeting of Cabinet are set out in the appendix attached, including a recommendation of the action to be taken for consideration. Members should note that individual petitions will not be the subject of further reports to Cabinet unless this is specifically requested at the meeting when the petition is reported.

5. List of Appendices

- 5.1 Details of Petitions received.

6. Background Papers

Petitions presented to the Chief Executive. Available for inspection in the Council Governance Unit, Town Hall, Barnsley, except where the petitions contain Exempt Information.

Officer Contact: Martin McCarthy **Email:** governance@barnsley.gov.uk **Date:** 28 October 2019

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Petitions received under Standing Order 44 - Cabinet – 13th November, 2019

Issue	No. of Signatories	Date Received	Action recommended under the Petitions Scheme
Climate Change Emergency Motion	152 signatories	27/09/2019	<p>Further to a response provided to the petitioners on 27th September 2019, the petitioners identified the following issues that were not addressed at Full Council on 26th September 2019. The response to the three issues is provided below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The BTUC petition calls for ‘A Citizen’s Assembly’. This would be a body that provides for a focused all-Barnsley discussion about the climate crisis with power to make recommendations to the Council. This would encourage a much broader democratic involvement of the people of Barnsley in discussing and developing policies that will improve our town’s carbon footprint. It is important to stress that it is necessary to bring people together to debate and discuss rather than soliciting individual responses from the public. The Mayor’s response also referred to the existing Area Councils, Ward Alliances and councillors’ surgeries as equivalent to citizens’ assemblies, but by their very nature these bodies cannot deal with borough-wide concerns.</i> <p>The Council will seek to listen to and act upon the views and advice of numerous individuals, communities, agencies and organisation, including academics and other environmental experts, residents, businesses and most importantly younger people, for whom the issue is of greatest importance. For that reason, our consultation processes will have to be targeted to ensure that we hear the voices and opinions of those who will suffer the greatest if we and society generally fail to act accordingly. The Council believes that a citizen’s assembly will not successfully facilitate such an approach.</p>

Issue	No. of Signatories	Date Received	Action recommended under the Petitions Scheme
			<p>In addition, a citizen's assembly has no direct democratic link back to the electorate and this would be a cause of concern for many voters who believe that they elect councillors to take responsibility for the day to day priority setting and effective running of the Council.</p> <p>We know that climate change will have the greatest impact upon our most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable individuals. It will therefore be necessary to seek the views of and work with specific groups and communities and the Ward Alliance and Area Council structures are ideal vehicles for such engagement.</p> <p>In conclusion, whilst frequent and meaningful consultation will be a key feature in our approach, we do not believe that a people's assembly will contribute greatly to well-informed and democratically accountable decision making and this Council is therefore unable to support this proposal from the Barnsley Trades Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The climate emergency motion passed by the Council does not set out how each major project of the Council will be evaluated in terms of its effect on carbon reduction (or increase!) before it is implemented. In addition, the council's motion does not call for Barnsley Council to oppose fracking as many other councils have done; it does not refer to any plans to reduce the number of cars coming into Barnsley; there is no suggestion of Park and Ride schemes; there is no reference to halting the expansion of car parking in the town centre in parallel with making the use of public transport cheaper and more convenient; it does not mention any suggestion about how the traffic chaos around Barnsley District General Hospital can be dealt with, something that causes serious traffic jams and large amounts of particulate pollution around the hospital and Summer Lane school.</i>

Issue	No. of Signatories	Date Received	Action recommended under the Petitions Scheme
			<p>A key recommendation in the cabinet report that accompanies the Climate Emergency Declaration is to develop a series of Strategic Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) which will identify and cost the measures the Council will take to achieve it's carbon neutral ambitions. The motion therefore deliberately does not set out major projects or evaluation methodology as this detail will be dealt with through the SEAPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>We believe that the target dates that have been set should be changed to 2025 or 2030. This is not gesture politics but is based on the information given in the latest report from the UN IPCC which indicates that we now have less than 12 years before a 'tipping point' is reached in terms of climate change.</i> <p>The Council believes that its long term carbon plans should be understood, costed and deliverable within realistic timeframes and in that in their current form meet all UK legislative requirements.</p> <p>The Council's zero40 and 45 reduction plans will make reference to the latest science based methodology with delivery plans which focus on reducing the cumulative carbon emissions in the Borough rather than just a long term zero carbon date.</p>

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