

Regeneration, Culture and Environment

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 June 2026

Petitions Report

Report from: Adam Bryan, Director of Place

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Summary

This report advises the Committee of petitions received by the Council which fall within the remit of this Committee including a summary of the responses sent to the petition organisers by officers.

1. Recommendation

1.1. The Committee is requested to note the petition responses and appropriate officer actions in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1. In summary, the Council's Petition Scheme requires the relevant Director to respond to the petition organiser, usually within 10 working days of the receipt of the petition by the Council. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are always advised of any petitions falling within their terms of reference together with the officer response. There is a right of referral of a petition for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the petitioners if they consider the Director's response to be inadequate. Should the Committee determine that the petition has not been dealt with adequately it may use any of its powers to deal with the matter. These powers include instigating an investigation, making recommendations to Cabinet and arranging for the matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council.

2.2. The petition scheme is set out in full in the Council's Constitution at [Council rules](#).

2.3. Any budget or policy framework implications will be set out in the specific petition response.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council's Constitution provides that petitions received by the Council relating to matters within the remit of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be referred immediately to the relevant Director for consideration at officer level.
- 3.2. Where the Director is able to fully meet the request of the petitioners a response is sent setting out the proposed action and timescales for implementation.
- 3.3. For petitions where the petition organiser is not satisfied with the response provided by the Director there is provision for the petition organiser to request that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the steps the Council has taken, or is proposing to take, in response to the petition.

4. Completed Petitions

- 4.1. The response to petitions relevant to this Committee that has been accepted by the petition organiser, with no request for referral to this Committee, are set out below.

Subject of petition	Summary of Medway Council's response
We the undersigned petition the Council to take urgent action regarding the deteriorating condition of Albemarle Road, Chatham	<p>We fully recognise the concerns raised about the previous condition of the road surface, including potholes, patch repairs and associated safety and accessibility issues. Ensuring our highway network is safe and serviceable for all road users remains a key priority.</p> <p>We are pleased to confirm that Albemarle Road, Chatham was resurfaced in full between 10–14 March 2026 as part of the Council's planned highway maintenance programme. These works addressed the whole length of the road and have resolved the deterioration highlighted in the petition. The road has now been restored to a good standard, improving safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, as well as accessibility for residents, service vehicles and emergency services. Albemarle Road will continue to be monitored through our routine inspection regime to ensure it remains in good condition.</p>
We the undersigned petition the council to use the £15.4 million DfT funding to create busways, dedicated school buses and free travel under 18s and over 60s.	<p>The petition highlights three main proposals: the creation of new busways, the introduction of dedicated school-only bus services, and free bus travel for all under-18s and all residents over 60.</p> <p>Much of the work to improve local bus services sits within Medway's published Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which we are delivering in partnership with local operators. This</p>

includes measures to increase frequencies on key corridors, improve punctuality, enhance passenger information and accessibility and tackle the impact of congestion on reliability. We have also introduced limited affordability initiatives, such as free travel for accompanied children during school holidays, as part of our broader effort to make bus travel more attractive.

Free off-peak travel for older and disabled residents is provided nationally through the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme, which the Council is required to administer. Providing free travel for all under-18s or extending free travel for older residents beyond the statutory scheme would require the Council to identify significant, recurring local funding and DfT funding agreements for BSIP and the Local Bus Grant do not permit their use for concessionary fares.

The development of segregated busways and a dedicated fleet of school-only buses. While our BSIP does include plans to improve bus priority on key routes, the creation of full busways would entail substantial capital costs and land requirements. These are not funded within our current programmes.

Similarly, establishing a publicly funded school-only bus network would require significant ongoing operational funding.

We are focused on improving the performance and accessibility of the existing network, this includes upgrades to bus stops and shelters, expansion of real-time information, junction and corridor improvements to support bus priority, targeted support for existing services, and investment in passenger safety, information and data systems. Taken together, these improvements represent a substantial investment in the performance and stability of the bus network. A further programme of works is planned for 2027/28 onwards. As we continue to update and refine our improvement plans, we will take the suggestions set out in the petition into account and explore what may be achievable within the funding and powers available to us.

5. Risk management

- 5.1. The Council has a clear scheme for handling petitions set out in its Constitution. This ensures consistency and clarity of process, minimising the risk of complaints about the administration of petitions.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1. Any financial implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions will be taken into account as part of the review of these matters. Actions referred to in the officer responses which are not within existing budgets, and any further activity, would require Cabinet and Council approval for budgetary additions if funding was available.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1. Overview and Scrutiny Rule 21.1 (xiv) in the Council's Constitution provides that the terms of reference of this Committee include the power to deal with petitions referred to the Committee under and in accordance with the Council's petition scheme.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None