

PETITION FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

Head of Service:	Piero Ionta, Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer
Report Author:	Piero Ionta
Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 - Petition

Summary

Following the trigger for a full Council debate being reached, this report sets out the details of the Petition and the procedure for its debate.

Recommendation (s)

The Council is asked to:

- (1) Council is asked to consider the Petition in line with its Petition Scheme.**

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 A petition, entitled "Remove Green Belt from the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Local Plan" has met the threshold for Council debate (receiving over 1,500 valid signatures) and been accepted under the requirements of the Council's Petition Scheme. Details of the Petition are set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution, provides for citizens to bring a petition in accordance with its [Petition Scheme, which is set out as Annex 6.1 of the Operating Framework](#).
- 2.2 The Scheme provides for a range of petitions to be brought, including one for debate at a meeting of the Full Council or a Committee, if it contains at least 1,500 signatures and falls within the Scheme.
- 2.3 The Petition Scheme permits the Petition Organiser to present their petition (para 6.2 of Annex 6-1), and Full Council will then decide at the meeting how it wishes to respond to the petition. It may decide to:
 - 2.3.1 take the action the petition requests;

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2.3.2 not to take the action for the reasons put forward in the debate; or

2.3.3 commission further investigation into the matter, for example by referring it to a relevant Committee

2.4 Following consideration, the decision of Full Council will be published on the Council's website.

3 Procedure for debate

3.1 In line with the Council's general rules of debate and the Petition Scheme, the procedure will be as follows:

3.1.1 the petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting;

3.1.2 a Chair of a Policy Committee will be given 7 minutes for a right of reply to the Petition

3.1.3 the meeting will then be opened to debate, those members wishing to speak will have 3 minutes to address the meeting;

3.1.4 at the conclusion of the debate the responding Chair will have the final right of reply and will have 5 minutes to respond and confirm the action to be taken.

3.3 With the exception of the Chair responding, no member is able to speak on the matter more than once.

3.2 Following the meeting the Petition organiser will receive written confirmation of Full Council's decision.

4 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

4.1 Equality Impact Assessment

4.1.1 No comments are provided on petitions.

4.2 Crime & Disorder

4.2.1 No comments are provided on petitions.

4.3 Safeguarding

4.3.1 No comments are provided on petitions.

4.4 Dependencies

4.4.1 No comments are provided on petitions.

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4.5 Other

4.5.1 No comments are provided on petitions.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 No comments are provided on petitions.

5.2 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** No direct financial matters raised through the petition.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 No comments are provided on petitions.

6.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the content of this report.

7 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

7.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- No comments are provided on petitions.

7.2 **Service Plans:** No comments are provided on petitions.

7.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** No comments are provided on petitions.

7.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** No comments are provided on petitions.

7.5 **Partnerships:** No comments are provided on petitions.

8 Background papers

8.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- None.

Other papers:

- [Petition Scheme](#)