

**Report to Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment**

**28 August 2014**

**Petitions**

**1. Summary Statement**

- 1.1 To advise the Cabinet Member of petitions received and of the action which has been taken or proposed.

Further details are attached for your information.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the action taken or proposed as detailed in the third column below be approved.

In accordance with the authority delegated to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment, the following course of action has been agreed, which will be set out in the formal record of the decisions taken by the Member:-

- (1) the recommendation(s) above is/are approved.
- (2) the recommendation(s) above is/are approved as now amended.
- (3) the recommendations above are not approved.

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**Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment**

28 August 2014

**Neeraj Sharma**  
**Director - Legal and Governance Services**

**Contact Officer**  
Trisha Newton  
Democratic Services Unit

## Petitions

### 3. Resource and Legal Implications

- 3.1 The implications arising from each petition and any subsequent action to be taken will be considered when a report on the matter is submitted.

### 4. Background Details

#### 4.1 Petitions received since the last decision making session

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
4.1.1 11 residents of Law Street, West Bromwich (Hateley Heath)	Request for residents' parking scheme in Law Street.	This matter is being investigated by officers in Highways and will be reported back to the Cabinet Member at a future decision making session. (Received 21/7/2014)
4.1.2 8 residents in the vicinity of Norman Road, Smethwick (Smethwick)	Request for traffic calming and pedestrian crossings on Norman Road.	This matter is being investigated by officers in Highways and will be reported back to the Cabinet Member at a future decision making session. (Received 31/7/2014)
4.1.3 63 residents in the vicinity of 120-122 Vicarage Road, Oldbury	Request for a bus stop shelter outside 120-122 Vicarage Road, Oldbury	This matter has been referred to Centro for investigation. (Received 04/08/14)

#### 4.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
4.2.1 1 resident of Ethel Street, Smethwick (Abbey)	Request for traffic calming in Ethel Street, Smethwick	This matter is being investigated by officers within highways and will be reported back to the Cabinet Member at a future decision making session. (Received 15/5/2014)

4.2.2	11 residents in the vicinity of Darlaston Road, Wednesbury (Wednesbury North)	Request for pedestrian crossings on Darlaston Road, near Bilston Road, Wednesbury	This matter is being investigated by officers within highways and will be reported back to the Cabinet Member at a future decision making session. (Received 20/5/2014)
4.2.3	28 residents of Windmill Lane, Smethwick (Soho & Victoria)	Concern regarding parking issues in Windmill Lane, Smethwick	This matter is being investigated by officers within highways and will be reported back to the Cabinet Member at a future decision making session. (Received 21/5/2014)
4.2.4	100 residents/service users (Boroughwide)	Requesting prohibition of culling of badgers on Council owned land and investment of vaccination programmes locally	<p>The Council has no plans to cull badgers on land in the borough as part of Government policy to try and eradicate Bovine TB in cattle in the UK. Officers have contacted the Defra helpline and consulted their website. There is currently no UK wide policy on badger culling.</p> <p>The only areas where badger culling has been undertaken by DEFRA is in the two pilot zones in Gloucestershire and Somerset. Culls carried out in these areas last winter failed to meet the target of killing 70% of the badger population, however the new Environment Secretary has confirmed that a further cull in the pilot zones of Gloucestershire and Somerset will go ahead in autumn 2014.</p> <p>The Council works hard to protect wildlife and currently manages a number of</p>

Countryside sites across the borough including nine designated Local Nature Reserves. These are managed in accordance with guidelines provided by English Nature. The head petitioner has been informed.

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|-------|---|---|--|
| 4.2.5 | 300 visitors to West Bromwich Town Centre (West Bromwich Central) | Request for the Council to stop the sale of the multi-storey car park until adequate parking is provided on the Kings Square side of the town | This matter is being investigated by officers within regeneration and economy and will be reported back to the Cabinet Member at a future decision making session.<br>(Received 13/2/2014) |
| 4.2.6 | 25 traders in Cradley Heath (Cradley Heath and Old Hill)          | Concern regarding parking charges in Cradley Heath town centre and request for one hour's free parking.                                       | A report appears elsewhere on this agenda.   |

### Source Documents

Copies of petitions from various groups of residents (exempt information).

**Decisions of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment**  
**28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014**

**Decision:-**

- (1) that the amendments to the vehicle policies in Section 3 of the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Handbook, be approved, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014;
- (2) that the supplementary vehicle testing criteria policy document, be approved, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014;
- (3) that, by way of consultation, the Licensing Manager be requested to notify all Sandwell Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licence holders and all prospective applicants for a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage licence in writing, about the proposals referred to in (1) and (2) above;
- (4) that, in connection with (3) above, the Area Director – Street Scene submit a report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment on any resolved matters.

**Business Matters**

42/14

**Petitions**

Details were submitted of petitions received and of the action taken or proposed in each case, as detailed in the Appendix.

**Decision:-**

That the action taken or proposed, as detailed in the second column, as set out in the Appendix, be approved.

**Decisions of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment**  
**28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014**

7.	Residents across the borough requesting the prohibition of culling of badgers on Council owned land and investment of vaccination programmed locally.	<p>The Council has no plans to cull badgers on land in the borough as part of Government policy to try and eradicate Bovine TB in cattle in the UK. Officers have contacted the Defra helpline and consulted their website. There was currently no UK wide policy on badger culling.</p> <p>The only areas where badger culling has been undertaken by DEFRA was in the two pilot zones in Gloucestershire and Somerset. Culls carried out in these areas last winter failed to meet the target of killing 70% of the badger population. However, the new Environment Secretary has confirmed that a further cull in the pilot zones of Gloucestershire and Somerset would go ahead in autumn 2014.</p> <p>The Council worked hard to protect wildlife and currently managed a number of Countryside sites across the borough including nine designated Local Nature Reserves. These were managed in accordance with guidelines provided by English Nature. The head petitioner has been informed.</p>
8.	Visitors to West Bromwich Town Centre, requesting the Council to stop the sale of multi-storey car park until adequate parking was provided on the Kings Square, West Bromwich.	This matter was being investigated by officers and a further report would be submitted to the Cabinet Member in due course.