

Croydon Council

For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 19 OCTOBER 2015
AGENDA ITEM NO:	9
SUBJECT:	RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF CROYDON ON 20 JULY 2015
LEAD OFFICER:	Julie Belvir, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: This report is prepared in keeping with paragraph 3.22 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council is asked to note the response to the petition presented by Councillors at its last ordinary meeting as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report details Cabinet Member response to the petition presented to Council on 20th July 2015. All Members have the opportunity to ask questions on the responses to any of the petitions.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution allows Councillors to present petitions to meetings of the Full Council.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires a response to that petition to be presented at this meeting.
- 3.3 A period of up to ten minutes is permitted for questions on the response to the petition.

4. RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

- 4.1 Petition presented by **Councillor Emily Benn** on behalf of residents: “We the undersigned, request the provision of controlled residents parking in the following roads – Canterbury Road/ Lancing Road/Donald Road/ Wortley Road/ Boston Road/ Stanley Road/ York Road/ Marden Road/ Marden Crescent”.

Response from Councillor Kathy Bee, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

The petition was reported to the Traffic Management Advisory Committee meeting on 6 October 2015 and the committee recommended that parking controls be introduced subject to informal consultation with residents. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to a future Traffic Management Advisory Committee for Members’ consideration.

- 4.2 Petition presented by **Councillor Maddie Henson** on behalf of residents: “Petition summary and background: Reinstate the Lollipop Lady at the Long Lane Crossing by Woodside Fire Station - Action petitioned for: We, the undersigned, are concerned parents who urge Croydon Council to reinstate a lollipop lady to ensure the safety of our children”.

Response from Councillor Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning

We recognise the commitment of School Crossing Patrol Officers across the borough and how highly they are valued by local parents.

However, tough decisions have to be made about how best to spend limited Council budgets. This area of work has been looked at over the years and the decision to decommission a crossing patrol officer at this location was made because there is a light controlled crossing which can be used by parents to safely accompany their children to school. A careful risk analysis was also undertaken at the time of original decision.

There is no statutory requirement for a Council to have any School Crossing Patrol Officers and it is the responsibility of every parent to ensure that their child travels safely to and from school, accompanied as necessary. We will continue to review this service but at this juncture and in the context of significant cuts to the Council’s budget, we are not in a position to increase the service.

- 4.3. A petition presented by **Councillor Joy Prince** on behalf of residents:

“CROYDON FAITH EDUCATION RESOURCES (CFER) FUNDING 2015

The diversity of Croydon as a borough is a positive feature if the harmony of its population is clear to see, if it becomes a source for division because mistrust and misunderstanding creeps in, then major issues of dislike, racism and disorder could easily follow.

CFER provides a facility for harmonious understanding of faith/culture issues to the wider population by running support courses for teaching staff and community groups and interaction with chaplaincy services, faith groups of all beliefs, council staff and others. The 22,000 items of teaching materials, DVDs, books, reference materials, posters, display items, and artefacts are a valuable resource which needs to be retained in the borough.

Should the centre be forced to close, it would be unlikely to re-open and that's an opportunity that would be lost.

We the undersigned call upon the Council to continue funding CFER at the excellent value of £40k per year. "

Response from Councillor Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning

Croydon Faith Education Resources library (CFER) is a discretionary service.

For a number of years Croydon has been moving towards a traded model for all services to schools that are not statutory duties. Schools Forum has increasingly delegated funds to schools in order that they are able to make decisions about how to spend the total education funding in a way that best supports their students. As a consequence, and in the context of very restricted funding now held by the Local Authority, which covers statutory duties, all "discretionary" functions are reliant on subscriptions from schools.

Over the last few years CFER have been made aware of this direction of travel and the Council has extended the discretionary funding period in order to support them in making the adjustment between a fully funded voluntary service to a traded model. As such, CFER should now be in a position to fund itself from traded income through setting appropriate subscription levels.

As a Local Authority we value the resource base and acknowledge the positive work undertaken by them. However, as with all other discretionary services, this now needs to be run on a cost recovery basis.

4.4 Petition presented by Councillor Stuart Collins on behalf of residents:

"We the residents of Hathaway Road ask that the Council consider making Hathaway Road a one way Road and that the Council starts the consultation process asap"

Reply from Councillor Kathy Bee, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

Officers have been asked to add the proposal to introduce one-way working on Hathaway Road to the list of future schemes to be included in a bid to Transport for London for funding as part of the 2016/17 financial year's work programme. As you will appreciate the 2015/16 work programme is already set but it may be possible to

progress the scheme design later this financial year, ahead of funding becoming available.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: