

## CABINET

17 MAY 2013

### A.1 - REFERENCE REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE OF 15 APRIL 2013

#### PETITIONS

#### BACKGROUND

At the meeting on 15 April 2013, the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee considered the issue of Petitions.

The Committee was advised that, under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, local authorities in England were required to have in place:

- a) Means by which petitions could be submitted, and managed electronically (e-petitions); and
- b) A scheme for dealing with petitions

The provisions came into force on 15 June 2010, by which time, local authorities were required to have in place a scheme for dealing with petitions (electronic or e-petitions by 15 December 2010).

**Section 46 of Chapter 10 (Miscellaneous Repeals) to the Localism Act 2011 has since revoked such provisions.**

In spite of this, and given that many local authorities in England still operated schemes for dealing with petitions received, the Committee was keen to see put in place, a Tendring District Scheme for dealing consistently with petitions received by the Council and that thresholds be set (in terms of the number of Tendring residents' signatures received) which would determine a particular course of action for the Council to pursue.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS / COMMENTS TO CABINET

Cabinet is now asked to consider the recommendations and comments of the Committee and determine its response if any:

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to Cabinet that:

- a) The Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee recommend that Tendring District Council has a Petitioning Scheme;
- b) Each petition received be based on a tiered system, whereby a petition containing 30 to 249 signatures from Tendring residents, be reported to Council for noting and further presented at the next meeting of the Cabinet following it being investigated

and a report being brought back to Cabinet for consideration; and a petition containing 250 or more signatures from Tendring residents, be referred to Council for reporting and further presented at the next meeting of the Council following it being investigated and a report being brought back to Council for consideration;

- c) That appropriate Ward Member(s) be informed of receipt of a petition and any action to be taken; and
- d) A review of the Petitioning Scheme be undertaken after 12 months and a report be brought back to this Committee for consideration.

#### **PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET**

It is **RECOMMENDED** that officers prepare a petitioning scheme for recommendation to Council and that the effectiveness, or otherwise, of any such scheme be undertaken by way of a review by the Community Leadership and Partnerships Committee after six months.