

Birmingham City Council
Council Business Management Committee

7 May 2024



Subject: Petitions Update
Report of: Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Report author: Ben Patel-Sadler
Senior Committee Manager
Ben.Patel-Sadler@birmingham.gov.uk

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential: N/A

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress made in responding to petitions presented to full Council and to provide an update in relation to the continuing management of petitions.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the progress made in relation to the responding to and discharging of petitions.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the number of outstanding petitions attributed to each directorate as outlined at 4.3 of the report.
- 2.3 That the Committee determines if any additional measures are required to ensure the continuing progress relating to the responding and discharging of petitions is maintained.

3 Background

3.1 At a meeting of CLT held during the week commencing 22 January 2024, Strategic Directors committed to manage petitions according to the protocol (outlined below) that applies to all petitions submitted by Members¹:

1. Petition presented at City Council.
2. Petition referred to the appropriate directorate for response within 3 working days.
3. Directorate to write to the Councillor presenting the petition and the first named petitioner to acknowledge receipt within 14 days of the City Council.
4. Progress of investigation into petition to be notified by the relevant directorate to Committee Manger for inclusion in the monthly Petitions Update no later than 10 working days before the next City Council.
5. Final response to petition included in Petitions Update by Committee Manager.
6. Director to notify the Councillor who presented the petition and the first named petitioner of the outcome within 14 days of the relevant City Council meeting discharging the same.

4. Current Position

4.1 At the previous meeting of the Council Business Management Committee, Members acknowledged that there were only three outstanding petitions. This represented considerable progress in terms of directorates responding to and discharging petitions presented at meetings of the City Council.

4.2 Following the completion of the Council Business Management Committee which took place on 2 April 2024, approximately 20 petitions were responded to and subsequently discharged by directorates.

4.3 As a result, 20 out of 25 outstanding petitions have been discharged from the schedule in total since the 2 April 2024.

4.4 Committee Services has not yet received a copy of petition 2714 and so this cannot be responded to. In relation to the other 5 outstanding petitions,

¹ It should be noted that the protocol applies only to petitions sent internally and not to those which are referred to outside bodies for action.

Committee Services will be liaising with the relevant directorates to ensure that these are responded to and discharged at the earliest possible opportunity.

- 4.5 Appendix 1 to this report outlines (in detail) the number of outstanding petitions as of 26 April 2024. The table below outlines (in summary) the number of outstanding petitions by directorate.

Directorate	Number of Outstanding Petitions
Place, Prosperity and Sustainability	1*
Adult Social Care	1
BCC Licensing Team	1
BCC Conservation Team	1
Total	4

* The petition attributed to the Place, Prosperity and Sustainability directorate has not been responded to as it has not yet been provided by the Councillor.

- 4.6 Where a response, or responses, remain outstanding, the Committee may wish to invite the relevant Strategic Director to attend the next meeting.
- 4.7 To ensure agreed timescales are adhered to, the City Solicitor will continue to provide the Corporate Leadership Team with updates on outstanding petitions on a monthly basis. If such improvements are not sustained, this will include a review of the petitions protocol.
- 4.8 However, given the substantial number of petitions discharged since the 22 January 2024, and the commitment from CLT that each directorate will adhere at all times to the agreed timescales in relation to the responding to and discharging of petitions, it is hoped that such a review will no longer be required.
- 4.9 Significant progress has been made over the previous 6 months in terms of directorates responding to and subsequently discharging petitions. For example, at the October 2023 Committee meeting, there were approximately 28 outstanding petitions (compared to 5 as of the date of this meeting).

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

7 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.1 There are no immediate equality implications arising from this report.

8 Other Implications

8.1 None.

9 Background Papers

9.1 None.

10 Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1: Outstanding petitions as of the 26 April 2024.