



WORTHING BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Leader
4 August 2021

Decision to be taken on or after
12 August 2021

Key Decision [Yes/No]

Ward(s) Affected: All

Non Qualifying Petition - Climate & Environment Emergency Bill

Report by the Monitoring Officer

Executive Summary

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. A Petition has been received by the Monitoring Officer from the Petition Organiser, Claire Hunt.
- 1.2. The petition contains less than 1000 signatures and is therefore a non-qualifying petition in accordance with the Worthing Borough Council Petition Scheme.
- 1.3. The Petition is for the Leader of the Council to determine.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. The Leader of the Council is recommended to determine the Petition and take what action he sees fit, in accordance with the Worthing Borough Council Petition Scheme.

3.0 Context

- 3.1. The Worthing Borough Council adopted Petition Scheme is available on the Council's website:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/Media.155455.smxx.pdf>

The petition is addressed to the Worthing Borough Council.

- 3.2. The details of the petition state:

For Worthing Borough Council to resolve to

- Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill;
- Inform the local media of this decision;
- Write to local MPs, asking them to support or thanking them for supporting the Bill; and
- Write to the CEE Bill Alliance*, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (campaign@ceebill.uk)

**Worthing Climate Action Network, Transition Town Worthing, Extinction Rebellion Worthing, Worthing Green Party, Inside Magazines, Adur & Worthing Liberal Democrats, West Worthing Labour Party, Plastic Free Worthing, Global Justice Worthing, Coast Café, HISBE Food CIC, Worthing Cycle Forum and East Worthing and Shoreham Labour Party.*

The petition can be found at Exempt Appendix 1 to this report.

4.0 Background

- 4.1. Qualifying petitions are defined in the Petition Scheme as those petitions containing more than 1,000 signatures. Non-qualifying petitions are defined in this scheme as petitions with more than 50 signatories but less than 1,000. This petition, which contains 230 signatures, of those living, working or studying within the Borough, is therefore classified as a non-qualifying petition.
- 4.2. The Council's Petition Scheme provides that non-qualifying petitions shall be referred to the relevant decision-maker. Where the decision-maker is an Executive Member or an Officer they shall meet with the Petition Organiser to discuss the contents of the petition. Following which they shall determine how to respond to it. Once a decision is made the decision-maker will notify the Petition Organiser in writing of their decision.

- 4.3. In respect of this petition, Climate change and sustainability is an Executive function. The petition fulfills the requirements in the Petition Scheme for being accepted by the Monitoring Officer. The Petition Organiser, Claire Hunt has been advised that the petition has been accepted and referred to the Leader of the Council as the relevant Councillor.
- 4.4. The Leader of Worthing Borough Council should therefore meet with Claire Hunt to discuss the contents of the petition. The Leader must then make a decision as to any action to be taken in respect of the decision. The Leader will then issue a decision notice setting out their response to the petition and any action to be taken by the Council. The decision notice will be published within 5 working days of the decision and the Petition Organiser notified of the outcome.
- 4.5. The Council's response to a petition, whether qualifying or non-qualifying, will depend on what the petition asks for but may include one or more of the following:
- taking the action requested;
 - considering the petition at a Full Council meeting;
 - holding an enquiry into the matter;
 - undertaking research into the matter;
 - holding a public meeting;
 - holding a consultation;
 - holding a meeting with the petitioners;
 - referring the petition for consideration by the Overview & Scrutiny or Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
 - writing to the Petition Organiser setting out the Council's views about the request in the petition;
 - deciding not to agree to do what is asked in the petition.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications in the Leader considering the petition. There may be potential financial implications arising out of any action taken in response to the petition.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1. Full details of the Borough Council's adopted Petition Scheme can be found in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.

6.2. The requirement to have a Petition Scheme was contained in the Local Democracy, Economic Construction and Development Act 2009 (as amended).

Background Papers

Worthing Borough Council Constitution

Officer Contact Details

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Adur & Worthing Councils declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, setting a net zero carbon target of 2030 for the councils' fleet and buildings; a 2050 (now 2045) for the district and borough as a whole; and calling upon Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible. The Councils' corporate risk register continues to identify the Climate Emergency as a 'High' risk.

4. Governance

The Council has a Petition Scheme which has been adopted formally as part of the Council's Constitution. All petitions submitted to the Council should be determined in accordance with the published Scheme.