

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **Report of the Director of Corporate Resources** **[Council: 24 February 2011]**

#### **PETITION - ATTLEBOROUGH COMMUNITY TEAM (ACT)**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides Members with background information in respect of a petition submitted to Breckland Council by the Attleborough Community Team (ACT) and advises of the procedure to be adopted at the meeting.

##### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council:

- 2.1 Responds to the petition based on the petitions procedure formally adopted in June 2010.

**Note:** In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

##### **3. Information, Issues and Options**

###### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 The Local Government, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 placed a statutory duty on Breckland Council to establish a scheme for receiving and responding to petitions, including a facility for online petitions. The current Breckland Council scheme was adopted by the Council on 24 June 2010.
- 3.1.2 A petition with over 2700 signatures was presented to the Leader of the Council on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 by the Attleborough Community Team (ACT). The petition asked for unsustainable development within the town of Attleborough to stop, and requested an undertaking from the Council on a number of issues, namely
- A commitment from all our elected representatives that the current shortfalls are addressed before any more significant development takes place.
  - A commitment that any action plans identify how the new development will contribute to the overall improvement for all residents
  - Proper consultation on any proposals for the town and its surroundings.
- 3.1.3 The current petitions scheme states that if the council receives a petition containing at least 1500 signatures it will be debated by the full council.
- 3.1.4 The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition, and the petition will then be discussed for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- 3.1.5 The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting.
- 3.1.6 The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision, and confirmation will also be published on the Breckland website.

### 3.3 Options

3.3.1 Agree to take the action the petition requests,

3.3.2 Agree not to take the action requested for reasons put forward during the debate.

3.3.3 Commission further investigation into the matter by the relevant committee.

## 4. **Risk and Financial Implications**

### 4.1 Risk

4.1.1 None

### 4.2 Financial

4.2.1 None

## 5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 The Council is obligated to follow the procedure as laid down in the petitions scheme.

## 6. **Other Implications**

a) None

## 8. **Ward/Community Affected**

8.1 Attleborough

### Background Papers

None

### Lead Contact Officer:

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### Key Decision Status (Executive Decisions only):

Non key decision]

### Appendices attached to this report:

Letter from Group Captain Middleton