

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 27 APRIL 2021

PETITION – POTHoles IN ARBROATH

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This Report advises members of a petition which was received in connection with potholes in Arbroath.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

In terms of Standing Order 14, it is open to the Committee to EITHER:

- (i) note receipt of the petition and take no further action;
- (ii) determine that appropriate action has already been taken or is planned and no further action is necessary;
- (iii) request a fuller report from the relevant officer;
- (iv) undertake a detailed scrutiny review, gather evidence and make recommendations to the relevant committee; or
- (v) refer the matter to Angus Council where in the view of the Committee, its significance requires a debate.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This Report contributes to the achievement of our priority that the council is efficient and effective as detailed in our Council Plan for 2017 – 2022.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 On 26 February 2021 a petition signed by 849 people which included 10 signatories from outwith the Angus area, was lodged with Angus Council.

The Petition was headed “Fix the Potholes in Arbroath” and was prefaced by the statement:-

“With the budget up and coming within Angus Council I would like them to set aside enough budget to fix the roads in Arbroath and surrounding areas.

Why is this important?

The pothole problem within Angus is costing the people who live there money with unnecessary car repairs that could easily be avoided if the council fixed the problem.”

The petition was acknowledged on receipt.

As the agenda and papers for the meeting of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee on 2 March 2021 had already been published, this is the first opportunity for the matter to be considered by this Committee in terms of the procedure set out in Standing Order 14.

Furthermore, the Director of Finance advised that the petition was best considered in the context of the resources the Council had available/set aside in its budget for financial year 2021/22.

Members are asked to give consideration to this matter and agree one of the options as detailed in Standing Order 14 above.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As members of the Committee will be aware the funds available for repairs to roads and other infrastructure cannot be looked at in isolation of all of the other services the Council provides. The demands for expenditure on Council services far outstrip the funds available, a position which has become more challenging in recent years. The Council's recently agreed Finance & Change Plan 2021-2024 (Appendix 2 to Report 61/21) is of relevance here. That Plan explains that the Council, over the last 9 years up to and including the 2021/22 budget, has had to make savings of over £70m (24% of the 2021/22 net revenue budget) and some of those savings have had to be made in areas such as road repairs.
- 4.2 Despite the significant financial challenges the Council has faced, investment in road repairs has remained a priority with additional one-off funding for such works being agreed in recent budgets, including £1m for additional road maintenance and pothole repairs, in the 2021/22 revenue budget agreed on 4 March 2021.

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