

Agenda Item:

Regulatory Committee

4 (b)
(ii)

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	30 July 2015
Officer	Andrew Martin – Head of Highways
Subject of Report	Procedure for Petitions - Petition entitled “Less HGVs on Ringwood Road”
Executive Summary	<p>A petition has been received (in accordance with the County Council’s published petitions scheme) in relation to traffic in Ferndown</p> <p>The Scheme states that if a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee.</p> <p>It is for the Committee to decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>Should the decision of the committee be that further work is commissioned, an EqlA would form part of that project.</p> <p>Use of Evidence: Not required at this time.</p> <p>Budget/ Risk Assessment: There are potential future budgetary implications but unable to assess this at this stage.</p>
Recommendation	The Committee is invited to note the receipt of this petition and decide how to respond to it.

Reason for recommendation	In order to comply with the County Council's published scheme for responding to petitions and so as to enable local people to connect with local elected decision makers.
Appendices	None
Background Papers	Dorset County Council Petitions Scheme
Report Originator and Contact	Name: Simon Gledhill Tel: 01305 228141 Email: s.t.gledhill@dorsetcc.gov.uk

1. **Background to the Petition Scheme**

- 1.1 The County Council's Petitions Scheme (based on the national model) was adopted on 29 April 2010 and came into effect on 15 June 2010.
- 1.2 If a petition is supported by 50 or more signatories then it will be reported by the Chairman to the relevant Council committee. If a petition is supported by 1,000 or more signatories it will be scheduled for a debate at the next meeting of the full County Council.

2. **Petition – Less HGVs on Ringwood Road**

- 2.1 The County Council received a petition organised by the Residents and Retailers of Ferndown. This reads as follows:-

PETITION FOR LESS HGVs ON RINGWOOD ROAD

1. Ferndown's recent town plan showed that the primary issue for residents was the volume of traffic moving through Ringwood Road (A348).
2. The 2014 Dorset County Council traffic survey showed daily volumes of 19000 vehicle movements, with 1800 HGV movements through this town centre - and main town home/school route daily.
3. With £66.4m awarded to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for road upgrades on the A338, Airport access and Port of Poole, it is the fair and reasonable time to address the HGV issue.

Residents and retail owners in Ferndown (undersigned) thus ask the LEP to work with the Highways Agency, Highways Authority and Local Authorities to limit HGV movements through the town except for deliveries only. This can be achieved in a number of ways and it is for the responsible Authorities to consider solutions.

- 2.2 As this petition contains more than 50 signatures, the Committee are invited to note and discuss this.
- 2.3 This discussion should conclude with a decision as to how to respond to the petition. This may include:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's audit and scrutiny committee
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out our views about the request in the petition

2.4 Alternatively, the Council may determine a combination of the options above, or decide on another course of action as appropriate.

3. **Context**

3.1 This petition contains 942 valid signatures in total.

3.2 The petition is asking the LEP to work with the Highways Agency, Highways Authority and Local Authorities to limit HGV movements through the town except for deliveries only. It is not directly asking the County Council to consider the petition aim of limiting HGV movement itself. The petition is also unclear whether the exception requested is limited to deliveries only in Ferndown or deliveries in general.

3.3 The petition refers to HGV's and it must be considered that whilst vehicles over 7.5 tonnes gross weight require a heavy goods vehicle drivers licence, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency classification for an HGV includes all goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross weight.

3.4 The HGV classification mentioned in point 3.3 will affect a substantially greater number of vehicles than ones merely requiring a heavy goods vehicle driver's licence to operate.

3.5 The A348 through Ferndown is an arterial highway serving the unitary conurbations of Bournemouth and Poole and is subject to relatively high volumes of traffic movement.

3.6 Where the A348 passes through Ferndown, it is fronted by a combination of local businesses and dwellings.

3.7 This route is subject to a 40mph speed restriction with camera enforcement.

3.8 There are currently no vehicle size or weight restrictions in place outside of the DfT abnormal load classification.

3.9 Any change to the existing infrastructure in relation to HGV movement will have a fundamental effect upon the remainder of the highway network with subsequent concern for affected frontagers.

3.10 The Committee is asked to consider the petition and evidence in conjunction with the context before making a decision as to a way forward, examples of which are shown in paragraph 2.3.

Andrew Martin
Head of Highways
July 2015