

Report to: Overview Committee



Date of Meeting 30 May 2024

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Briefing Note for Overview Committee – e-petitions

Briefing Note:

- Current scheme – members of the public can access the EDDC website for details on how to submit a petition. There is currently no facility to submit/set up an e-petition and petitioners are only able to submit a petition in paper form.
- The Councils MOD.GOV (Issue Manager) has an option to allow petitions to be submitted online and accept signatories in support of the petition.
- The petition module in MOD.GOV is currently inactive and further investigations will be required to fully assess the staffing and financial implications for this.
- Members of the public are able to create petitions electronically using the change.org or 38Degrees platform, and once the petition has closed the petition organiser sends a link to the Council to verify the signatory names and address and the number of signatures in line with the Council's current scheme.

Implications

- DSO resources required to co ordinate and manage e-petitions received
- Financial implications – awaiting details from Civica (supplier of MOD.GOV)
- Lack of control in use of 3rd party electronic petition schemes (i.e. unable to identify if signatories are local residents)
- Review of current petition scheme to deal with e-petitions
- GDPR – removal of personal data following the closure of an e-petition

Next steps

- Full report back to Overview Committee outlining a business case for the introduction of an e-petition scheme
- Review current petition scheme to allow e-petitions to be submitted – refer to the Constitution Working Group