

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 7TH MARCH, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 14TH FEBRUARY, 2022

**“C817 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN PETITION SCHEME (EL/PR)
(SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –**

The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Performance and Resources presented the report to seek endorsement for the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Petition Scheme attached at Appendix 1, in line with the duty under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Section 42 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, placed a legal duty on principal Councils in Wales to make and publish a petition scheme setting out how the Council would handle and respond to petitions, including electronic petitions (e-petitions).

There was a duty for the petition scheme to set out:

- (a) how a petition may be submitted to the Council;
- (b) how and by when the Council would acknowledge receipt of a petition;
- (c) the steps the Council may take in response to a petition received by it;
- (d) the circumstances (if any) in which the Council may take no further action in response to a petition; and
- (e) how and by when the Council would make available its response to a petition to the person who submitted the petition and to the public.

There was a requirement for the new petition scheme to be implemented and in place by 5th May, 2022. In response to the new legislation, Democratic Services had devised the attached Draft Petition Scheme.

The Leader said that the report was an example of how things had changed over the years and how modern technology required Members and Authorities to work in different ways.

The Leader proposed that there be an additional Recommendation using the urgency decision procedure as set out in the Council’s Constitution in order for the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Petition Scheme to be referred to full Council on 7th March, 2022 as it had to be implemented by 5th May, 2022.

The Deputy Leader said that petitions were an important way for people to have their voices heard, but the Petition Scheme would allow those voices to be heard and managed. The Scheme would allow the signatories to be processed appropriately and enable the Council to respond objectively and Cabinet agreed with the proposed additional Recommendation as the matter would be discussed in full Council also.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Petition Scheme (Appendix 1) be endorsed and be recommended to Council for approval from 5th May, 2022.

(2) T H A T the Draft Petition Scheme (Appendix 1) be submitted to Council for consideration and approval to be incorporated into the Council's Constitution.

(3) T H A T the urgency decision procedure as set of in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be used in order for the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Petition Scheme to be referred to full Council on 7th March, 2022.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to administer those petitions which had received fewer than 100 signatories.

Reasons for decisions

(1&3) To seek Cabinet's endorsement of the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Petition Scheme, and to allow it to be submitted to Council on 7th March, 2022.

(2) To allow the Draft Vale of Glamorgan Petition Scheme to be approved by Council and for the document to be incorporated into the Council's Constitution ahead of the 5th May, 2022 deadline.

(4) To grant delegated authority to the Head of Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to use discretion with the administration of petitions which have received fewer than 100 signatories and where there is clear local support for action.”