

# CABINET

## Response to 'Pride in Primrose' Street Pride Petition

2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2008

### Report of Head of City Council (Direct) Services

| PURPOSE OF REPORT  |                          |                       |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| To consider the 'Pride in Primrose' Street Pride Petition presented to Council on the 23rd July. |                          |                       |                                     |
| Key Decision   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-Key Decision      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  |                          | Referral from Council | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Date Included in Forward Plan  | NA                       |                       |                                     |
| This report is public  |                          |                       |                                     |

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet note the petition, but take no further action, given that , under the officer Scheme of Delegation, the Head of City Council (Direct) Services has responsibility for managing the 'street pride' scheme, and that residents will have the opportunity to put forward their street for nomination, via their ward councillors for the 2009/10 programme.

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the meeting of Council (23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008) Mr. Miles Bennington formally presented a petition and addressed Council in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12 as follows:

"We, the undersigned, support Miles Bennington and Lancaster Conservative's campaign to get the Primrose area of Lancaster cleaned up. Starting with Dale Street and Prospect Street we believe that the Council should use its new 'Street Pride' scheme to tidy our area."

He advised Council that his purpose in submitting the petition was to draw attention to problems of cleanliness in Primrose. Residents had complained of poor road maintenance, uneven and badly maintained pavements and problems with refuse in the alleyways caused by the fortnightly bin collections and this petition called for the Council's Street Pride scheme to be rolled out in Primrose, so that the Council could

begin to tackle the problems. Keeping Primrose, a compact area of Victorian Terrace housing clean and tidy was, he felt, essential to the well-being of the residents.

He also called on the Council to alter its current method of accepting road proposals for the Street Pride scheme. Residents should have the opportunity to suggest roads to the Council directly, rather than having to persuade the relevant councillor to nominate the road on their behalf.

(Minute 35 refers).

- 1.2 In accord with the Council's constitution the petition was referred to the next convenient Cabinet meeting.
- 1.3 Lancaster City Council's 'street pride' scheme was developed from the existing deep clean scheme and was formally launched in April 2008. The purpose of the scheme is not to replace existing maintenance schedules but to provide maintenance to areas that are often difficult to access because of parked traffic. The fact that a range of services are provided at the same time does provide a good visual impact and provides a good basis for residents to take further ownership of the area. As such the scheme has proved to be very successful and has been welcomed by residents in the areas where it has been delivered.
- 1.4 For the 2008/9 scheme residents were invited to nominate areas for inclusion in the schedule, via ward councillors in their role as community leaders. In accord with the officer scheme of delegation (Part 3, Section 15, 3.16.1) the final schedule was determined by the Head of City Council (Direct) Services. For 2008/9 21 'street pride' days were scheduled to take place in the District.
- 1.5 Ward Councillors from the John O'Gaunt ward, which includes the Primrose area, nominated several streets in the Perth St area, which, have been included in the 2008/9 'street pride' schedule. How ward councillors determined which streets to put forward from their community was left to them. As an example the streets nominated by John O'Gaunt councillors were nominated based on feedback from the PACT meeting.
- 1.6 The specific issues referred to in the petition of litter, broken and uneven paving slabs and blocked gullies are ones that the City Council and County Council deal with on a day to day basis. These matters are dealt with through planned maintenance regimes or via response to customers contacting the City or County Council helplines. Obviously available levels of resource determine the level of planned and reactive maintenance.

## **2.0 Proposal Details**

- 2.1 In line with existing capacity the 2008/9 'street pride' schedule has been agreed and advertised. In addition records show that under the previous 'deep clean' scheme Dale Street has already been covered (17<sup>th</sup> May 2007). Therefore, it is not appropriate that the Primrose area is added to the schedule in 2008/9.
- 2.2 Views of local residents are always welcomed and those expressed in relation to litter will be investigated by City Council officers and dealt with appropriately, within existing resource. The concerns expressed in relation to paving and gullies will be referred to the County Council for investigation.
- 2.3 It is noted that in addressing Council, Mr Bennington called on it to alter its current method of accepting road proposals for the Street Pride scheme, suggesting that

residents should have the opportunity to suggest roads to the Council directly, rather than having to persuade the relevant councillor to nominate the road on their behalf. As one of the purposes of the scheme is to allow ward councillors to develop their community leadership role it is not likely that the system for nominating streets will be changed when officers start to develop the 2009/10 schedule.

### **3.0 Options and Options Analysis**

3.1 **Option 1-** To note the petition but take no further action. In accordance with the officer scheme of delegation the Head of City Council (Direct) Services has responsibility for managing the 'street pride' scheme. For the reasons outlined in the report he does not consider it necessary to add the streets in the Primrose area to the 2008/9 scheme. Any specific maintenance issues that residents have can be addressed through the appropriate channels, subject to available resources. Residents will have the opportunity to put forward their street for nomination, via their ward councillors for the 2009/10 programme.

3.2 **Option 2-** To request the Head of City Council (Direct) Services to take other action in the light of the petition. .

### **4.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)**

4.1 For the reasons outlined within the report the Officer preferred option is option 1.

### **5.0 Conclusion**

5.1 The report provides a response to the petition recently presented to Council.

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The Council's Corporate Plan 2008/9, Priority Outcome No 5 is 'Cleaner streets and public open spaces'

#### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

None as a direct result of this report

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The 'street pride' schedule for 2008/09 is fully allocated so any new additions to this schedule would require additional funding to be identified or a reduction to the current schedule.

The recommended option (option 1) would have no additional financial implications for the Council.

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Petition

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**Ref:**