

COUNCIL – 28th June 2010
A120 Petition

Agenda Item 6

Portfolio Area:	Enterprise & Culture – Cllr Harley
Relevant Ward	Cllr Lady Newton – Coggeshall & North Feering
Member(s):	Cllr Dunn – Coggeshall & North Feering Cllr Siddall – Three Colnes Cllr Mrs Spray – Three Colnes

Background Papers:	Signed petition – 2377 signatures
Corporate Implications:	Please refer to table at end of report
Options:	None arising directly from this report
 Risks:	 None arising directly from this report

Executive Summary

Approximately 2377 signatures have been collected in response to the serious concerns that local people have regarding the junction at the A120/B1024 (Colne Road). The petition also has the support of the local Ward Members and the parish councils of Coggeshall and Earls Colne. The petitioners are urging the Council to have early discussions with the Highways Agency with a view to seeking improvements to this junction. Under new rules adopted at the Council's AGM, a petition with more than 1000 signatures will trigger a debate at full Council.

There have been discussions between the District and the County Councils for more than 15 years about accidents and safety improvements required to this junction. This has been frequently discussed at Traffic Management Liaison meetings and the Council has recognised the problems of this junction and the need for improvements.

The Government have announced their intention to cut funding on transport infrastructure, which would mean that there will be no funding for a new offline A120 or major improvements to the road. In the light of this, it is clear that the safety issues will not be solved by a major infrastructure scheme to improve the A120 east of Braintree. The Council may therefore wish to press for a localised improvement to this junction as a safety scheme and could ask for the County Council to support them in lobbying for this. The responsibility for the A120 passed to the Highways Agency when it became a trunk road, but the County Council remain responsible for Colne Road. The County Council would therefore need to be involved in discussions.

Decision

To seek the Council's views on the request.

Corporate Implications	
Financial:	None arising directly from the request
Legal:	None arising directly from the request
Equalities & Diversity:	None arising directly from the request
Customer Impact:	None arising directly from the request
Environment & Climate Change:	None arising directly from the request
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Report triggered by a petition
Key Decision:	No
Public/Private Report:	Public
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Petitions Scheme

- 2.1 The petition organiser has the option of presenting the petition at the meeting and in his/her absence, the Ward Member will be invited to introduce it on their behalf.
- 2.2 The Chairman will then commence the debate by inviting Members to comment upon the petition. The relevant Cabinet Member will be invited to close the debate before any recommendation is dealt with.
- 2.3 In deciding how to respond to the petition, the Council may decide to take the action that has been requested in the petition or to undertake other actions that are considered to be an appropriate response to the petition.