Public Petitions Process and Guidance – Outcome of review noted etc.

4 With reference to the minutes of 2nd March 2023 (Print 6, page 612) agreeing that a further review of the public petitions process and guidance should be undertaken and approving the establishment of a short-term working group to carry out the review, there was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Administration providing a report on the outcome of the review, advising

(1) that the working group comprised cross party elected members, community council representatives and relevant council officers and had considered various reports that set out details of petitions submitted in the period since the previous review in 2019 through to 2023 with a focus on outcomes and further actions undertaken on those petitions that had been submitted to the relevant committees;

(2) of the issues that the working group had focussed on during the review, the benchmarking exercise undertaken and the survey findings;

(3) of the updated guidance developed and agreed by the working group as detailed in the appendix to the report; and

(4) of the agreed actions and recommendations as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the committee

(a) noted

(i) the report and the work carried out by the cross-party elected member working group to review the public petitions process;

(ii) the updated guidance that had been produced along with actions that were being developed in order to improve accessibility and transparency in the petitions process; and

(iii) that an annual report on petitions would be included in the workplan for this Committee which would include information on any agreed outcomes and further actions taken to address issues in petitions; and

(b) agreed to continue to support the petitions process and its ongoing promotion.