

Kent Authorities – Progress with Adoption of Petitions Scheme

Authority	Adopted Scheme	DCLG Model or Modifications	Thresholds	% of local population required for Council debate (based upon 2009 mid year population estimates)	E-Petition Arrangement
Ashford	No – to be reported in autumn to discuss thresholds.	The Consultation Institute alternative.	To be determined.	n/a	Exploration of in-house and external options.
Canterbury	Yes – Council 15 July.	Modified DCLG model.	<p>Petition for debate – 3000; officer to account at O&S – 1500; ordinary petition threshold – 15. Retained the offer for them to submit to Council and speak for 3 minutes.</p> <p>No geographical restriction on who may sign.</p>	2%	Modern.Gov e-petitions module.
Dartford	Yes – Council on 7 June.	Likely to follow model but will want to verify signatures, cross-checking with data	3,000 for Council debate; 1,500 to call senior officer; 15 for ordinary petition.	3.2%	Have Modern.Gov with e-petitions facility.

		held by council (subject to Data Protection).			
Dover	Yes – on 9 May. Copy received.	Yes but “tweaked” a little.	1.5% population (1,600) for Council debate; 0.75% (800) to call senior officer; no threshold for ordinary petition (ie petition organiser + 1).	1.5%	Exploring software.
Gravesham	No - Council in October 2010	Probably Modified DCLG model	Will propose triggers of 1000 and 500 respectively. 15 for ordinary petition. Retain the offer of deputation to Council and opportunity for up to five persons to speak for a total of 15 minutes.	1%	Modern.Gov with e-petitions facility.
Maidstone	Pre-existing petition scheme being reviewed to see if it could be refined further.	Meets criteria of DCLG scheme.	Current threshold is 100 for all and that already brings about a 20 minute debate at Council. Being suggested that a petition with 1500 signatures should trigger a larger debate at Council.	1% (If 1500 figure adopted)	Modern.Gov with e-petitions facility.
Medway	Yes – Council on 17 June. Copy draft received.	Yes.	1% population (2,535) for Council debate; 0.5% (1,267) to call senior officer. Being reviewed in light of Govt guidance.	1%	Included in new decision management software.

Sevenoaks	No.	Yes.	1,000 for Council debate; 500 to call senior officer.	0.9%	Have CMIS with e-petitions facility.
Shepway	Yes – Council on 12 May. Copy received.	Yes.	1,000 for Council debate; 500 to call senior officer; 250 for ordinary petition.	1%	
Swale	Yes – Council on 23 June.	Bevan Brittan’s modified model.	1,500 for Council debate; 500 to call senior officer (reduced to 200 and where local matter affecting no more than 2 wards); 10 for ordinary petitions.	1.1%	Exploring software.
Thanet	Yes – Council on 15 July	DCLG model but without the live, work, study restriction on who can sign.	1,300 for Council debate; 650 to call senior officer; 25 for ordinary petition.	1%	Modern.Gov e-petitions module.
Tonbridge and Malling	Adopted on interim basis by Council on 13 July.	Yes.	1,500 for Council debate; 750 to call senior officer; 50 for ordinary petition.	1.3%	Exploring various options including link to E-Genda.
Tunbridge Wells	Yes – on 19 May. Copy received.	DCLG modified for local circumstances.	1,000 for Council debate; 500 to call senior officer; 50 for ordinary petition.	0.9%	
KCC	Yes - Council on 22 July. Going live with e-petitions on	Based on model.	12,000 for countywide petitions (less than 1% of population = 14,000) for Council debate; 1,000 for	0.8%	Have Modern.Gov with e-petitions facility.

	1 Sept. Scheme to be reviewed on 9 Dec 2010.		countywide matter relating to a specific district (or multiples thereof). For officer call-in half the above figures; no minimum set to be a valid petition.		
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