

**REPORT TO:** Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 20 December 2023

**BY:** Executive Director for Council Resources

**SUBJECT:** Petition PET0223 – Calling on East Lothian Council to pause and review the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme

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## **1 PURPOSE**

1.1 To present petition PET0223 to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee for consideration. The petition is entitled 'Pause and Review the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme: The Community Deserves Better'.

1.2 The petition text reads:

Pause and review the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. We entirely reject the flood protection design presented at the June exhibition. We have lost confidence in the MFPS and the consultants. Musselburgh deserves better. We want co-production of options that reduce the flood risk and preserve the character of the town focussing on nature-based solutions along the Esk River catchment and along the coast.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee consider the petition and takes action as required.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

3.1 A petition was submitted by Dr Jeffrey Wright, principal petitioner, on behalf of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Action Group on 12 December 2023.

3.2 The petition was deemed to be competent and had 2761 signatories. The principal petitioner advised that a further >500 signatories had been collected from community engagement, but at the time of writing, this document had not yet been submitted.

- 3.3 Further details of the petition are contained in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.4 The petition can be viewed by contacting the Clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee.

**4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no immediate policy implications arising from this report. Depending on the action required and agreed by the Committee, there may be policy implications relating to particular issues arising from competent petitions. These will be subject to a separate report to the relevant committee, as required.

**5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 6.2 Personnel – dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.
- 6.3 Other – dependent on the action agreed by the Committee.

**7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 East Lothian Council Standing Orders – Appendix 1: Scheme of Administration – Petitions and Community Empowerment Review Committee.

Appendix 1: Summary of petition for consideration

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Becky Crichton
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Committees Officer/Clerk to the Petitions and Community Empowerment and Review Committee
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	rcrichton@eastlothian.gov.uk
<b>DATE</b>	15 December 2023



## PETITION TO EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

<b>Name of Principal Petitioner (and organisation if applicable)</b> (Block Caps)	DR JEFFREY WRIGHT MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION ACTION GROUP
<b>Address of Principal Petitioner (inc Postcode)</b> (Block Caps)	[REDACTED]
<b>Contact telephone number of Principal Petitioner</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Title of Petition</b>	PAUSE AND REVIEW THE MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME : THE COMMUNITY DESERVES BETTER
<b>Petition text. We the undersigned call on East Lothian Council to..</b>	PAUSE AND REVIEW THE MUSSELBURGH FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME We entirely reject the the flood protection design presented at the June exhibition We have lost confidence in the MFPS and the consultants. Musselburgh deserves better. We want co-production of options that reduce the flood risk and preserve the character of the town focussing on Nature based Solutions along the Esk river catchment and along the coast.
<b>What action have you taken and who have you contacted before submitting this petition and what was the result of this?</b>	We have 2761 petition signatories online at change.org and a further >500 from our community engagement. We have contact with all political parties and over two years of seeking answers have grown increasingly concerned with the proposed scheme. We met with the First Minister today who asked to be kept informed about our petitions submission.
<b>Please provide more information about your petition</b>	The Community wants to be fully invovled in the co-production of a flood protection scheme that promotes biodiversity, fights the impact of climate change and can be a role model for climate resilience. Our petition is our expression of our democratic rights to protest and participate in local governance. Rejection will further fracture the bond between Community and East Lothian Council.
<b>Signature of Principal Petitioner</b>	[REDACTED]

**Your details will only be held by East Lothian Council and will not be used for any purposes other than in relation to this petition.**

<b>For Office Use:</b>	
<b>Date Received:</b>	12 December 2023
<b>Receiving Officer:</b>	Clerk to the Petitions & CER Committee
<b>Petition Reference:</b>	PET0223

All Petitions should be forwarded to: Clerk to the Petitions Committee, Legal & Democratic Services, East Lothian Council, John Muir House, Haddington EH31 3HA or handed in at Main Reception, John Muir House, Haddington