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| Agenda Item No: | 8 |  |
| Committee: | COUNCIL | |
| Date: | 14 SEPTEMBER 2017 | |
| Report Title: | PETITION - DRINKING BAN IN WISBECH | |

1 Purpose / Summary

For Council to consider a petition regarding the proposal to ban drinking in Wisbech

2 Key issues

- The Council has received a petition proposing a total drinking ban across the whole of Wisbech.
- In summary the petition states "Wisbech is blighted with drunken behaviour and the people have been absolutely clear on what they are looking for. An absolute zero tolerance policy to drunk and disorderly behaviour, a drinking ban supported by PSPO's or similar legislation, across the whole town, fines, ASBO's or similar banning orders for repeat offenders. A review of the alcohol licenses currently active within the town, including a number of takeaway outlets reportedly selling alcohol from 2pm-3am in some cases. A commitment from the PCC Jason Ablewight and Steve Barclay to adequately fight to resource Wisbech appropriately to cope with all measures brought forward.
- A large number of Citizens have expressed that they are frightened to use certain hotspots in the town, such as Tillery Park and St Peters Gardens and some even claim to avoid the town centre all together. There is no point continuing with further economic development of the town if this, one of its core social problems, is not tackled head on. This should include support for rehabilitation and homelessness. A plan to clearly communicate back to the town what action you are pursuing, including estimated timelines, should be put in place to demonstrate the work you are doing. Transparency is key.
- The petition has received 2008 electronic signatures, therefore exceeding the minimum 500 signatures required to facilitate a debate at full Council
- When considering a petition, the Council has several options on how to respond to the petition including;
 - Taking the action requested in the petition
 - Considering the petition at a council meeting
 - Referring the petition for consideration by the Council's overview and Scrutiny Committee
- It is suggested that this petition is considered by Council.

3 Recommendations

- For Council to consider the petition.

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| Wards Affected | All |
| Forward Plan Reference | |
| Portfolio Holder(s) | Councillor David Oliver |
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| Background Paper(s) | |