

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Petitions Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 07 June 2017	14:30	CMR 3, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

Councillor Bill Brown: Councillor Stephen Burns: Councillor Michelle Campbell: Councillor Neill Graham: Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes: Councillor Scott Kerr: Councillor Jim Sharkey: Councillor Andy Steel:

Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor (Convener):

Members of the Press and Public

Members of the press and public wishing to attend the meeting should report to the customer service centre where they will be met and directed to the meeting.

Further Information

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at www.renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx

For further information, please either email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk or telephone 0141 618 7112.

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

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|----------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Petition: Traffic Concerns, Newmains Road, Renfrew | 3 - 6 |
| | Report by the Director of Finance and Resources. | |
| 2 | Petition: Carer Transport Costs | 7 - 10 |
| | Report by the Director of Finance and Resources. | |



To: Petitions Board

On: 7 June 2017

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Petition: Traffic Concerns, Newmains Road, Renfrew

1. Summary

1.1 The Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board at its meeting held on 28 November 2016 considered a petition comprising around 20 signatures from Ms Alexa Lang in the undernoted terms:

“To address traffic concerns, in particular “speeding” on Newmains Road, Renfrew”

1.2 At that meeting the Board noted that the Head of Amenity Services had advised that he was aware of speeding complaints on Newmains Road, Renfrew; that Newmains Road is wide with parking on both sides and links Paisley Road with Sandy Road; that speed measurements had been carried out on this length of road and average speeds were recorded up to 27mph; that an accident analysis had been carried out which showed no evidence of any injury accidents in the latest three-year period. It was further noted that the Head of Amenity Services had passed the matter to Police Scotland for their comments.

1.3 At the meeting of the Board held on 28 November 2016 the Board heard from the principal petitioner and the Transportation Manager and the Board agreed that consideration of the petition be continued to allow Police Scotland to conduct monitoring at appropriate times and that the petitioner and Police Scotland be invited to attend a future meeting at which consideration of the petition would be considered further.

- 1.4 The Head of Amenity Services advises that Police Scotland have advised that they could not use their equipment on Newmains Road. They indicated that they will send officers to the locus however they will be in Hi Viz vests so it is likely that this will reduce driver speed. The Head of Amenity advises that the results from the Driver Feedback Signs (DFS) that had been out in Jan 2016 and had been looked at and that these show 85% speed at 32mph, indicating that it is unlikely to be a speeding issue.
- 1.5 The Head of Amenity Services further advises that it would not be normal practice to put DFS signs out again for a couple of years unless there was a major development. In addition, there has not been an injury accident on Newmains Road since 2012.
- 1.6 The principal petitioner, together with one supporter, have been invited to attend this meeting of the Board.
- 1.7 The role of the Board is to consider the petition and take the appropriate action in respect of the petition which will be one of the following: (a) that no action is taken, in which case the reasons will be specified and intimated to the petitioner; (b) that the petition be referred to the relevant director/and or policy board for further investigation, with or without any specific recommendation; or (c) refer the petition to another organisation if the petition relates to that organisation.
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2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Board resumes consideration of the petition.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial Implications** – none
2. **HR and Organisational Development Implications** – none
3. **Community Plan/Council Plan Implications** – none
4. **Legal Implications** – none
5. **Property/Assets Implications** – none
6. **Information Technology Implications** – none
7. **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified

arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health and Safety Implications** – none

9. **Procurement Implications** – none

10. **Risk Implications** – none

11. **Privacy Impact** – none

List of Background Papers

List of Background Papers – petition form

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To: Petitions Board

On: 7 June 2017

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Petition: Carers' Transport Costs

1. Summary

- 1.1 A petition comprising 1491 online signatures has been received from Ms Amanda Macdonald in the undernoted terms:

"Transport costs are a massive issue that affects so many carers of all ages, from as young as they start school till older adulthood. Many carers face huge financial difficulty and as a result are unable to have much of a social life of their own as they cannot afford to get around by public transport. The simple task of getting to shops, collecting medication from the chemist or doing many other things that come as part of the daily routine that carers face on a day to day basis.

Alongside a caring role it's important for carers to be able to attend support groups and meet with friends in order to have a healthy social life which many cannot do due to lack of money for buses or even trains depending on where you stay. As a result of being able to get out and about it allows the carer to be less stressed and lowers the chances of developing a mental health issue due to the many pressures of the caring role.

The cost of travel may not seem a lot of money to many however £4.00 per adult a day adds up to £28.00 a week (varies dependent on where you are for bus fares) which is a huge amount of the income a carer receives. Having concessionary travel or even a discount on travel for carers would be huge benefit to so many as many people say companion card is enough. However,

people do not realise the cared for has to be present to allow card to be used, a carer is 9 out of 10 times on their own while traveling so as you see companion card is useless at this point.

45% of young adult carers (18-25) have reported that they have mental health problems due to their caring role and the struggles they face because of it.

68.8% of older carers say that being a carer has an adverse effect on their mental health. This could be lessened by such a small change like concessionary or discounted travel. For young people aged 16-19 or in full time education who have a young Scot card you are entitled to a discounted rate of travel however, this discount is only valid on single journeys. In most cases this is no use to a carer as they are making return journeys especially if they are in further education and have a long distance to travel every day or do not live with the person that you provide care for. Some carers have to travel many miles just to visit the person they care for if they are in specialised hospitals or care homes.

Being a carer is not all bad it has many positive aspects such as learning crucial skills such as observation skills, listening skills, budgeting skills, organisation skills, being trustworthy and so many more. These skills would be of so much use to the employment field but unfortunately not many employers see this. Carers do this on a daily basis because they care even when the cared for could end up in a hospital, care home or in a looked after residential setting. When this happens the carer will do whatever they can to get to the cared for even if it results in at times not eating or walking miles due to not having money for transport.

This is why I feel so strongly about getting support for carers when it comes to transport. I hope that carers and decision makers will get behind this campaign and help to change so many people's lives for the better.

Is free concessionary transport for carers really too much to ask for when carers dedicate their lives to provide care to others?"

1.2 Members are also advised that the Council took a decision on 1 May 2014 on a similar matter, following a notice of motion, that

"Council supports the Scottish Youth Parliament's campaign for young carers.

The cost of travel to school, work and to attend social activities can be prohibitive for young carers and to alleviate that Council calls on the Scottish Government to introduce and fund a scheme of concessionary travel for young people who have caring responsibilities.

Council also calls for the Student Awards Agency for Scotland to recognise young carers as a vulnerable group and be given access to additional bursaries to allow them to fully take up educational opportunities.

Council finally instructs officers within the Education department to review its policy on the payments of the Educational Maintenance Allowance in order to provide clear and flexible guidance for schools when dealing with pupils whose attendance may be affected by caring responsibilities. This review to be reported back to a future meeting of the Education Policy Board”.

- 1.3 The Head of Early Years and Inclusion advises that there are new responsibilities for the council and health in addressing the needs of carers.
- 1.4 Similarly, the Head of Adult Services advises that Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership will jointly produce a Local Carer Strategy to coincide with the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act from 1st April 2018. Carers and carer organisations will be involved in planning, shaping and reviewing services for carers through the Partnership’s Strategic Planning Group.
- 1.5 The Regional Child Care Commissioning Co-ordinator advises that she is leading on the development of a Young Carers Strategy and anticipates that the draft will be ready for consultation in October 2017. She also advises that engagement activities with young carers have commenced via the Carers' Centre and the issue of transport has already arisen with young people saying that the cost of travel impedes their ability to have respite/breaks from caring. In addition the Regional Child Care Commissioning Co-ordinator advises that she will ensure that the issue of transport is explicitly addressed in the next sessions with young carers.
- 1.6 The petition is valid in terms of the Council's procedures for dealing with petitions and the principal petitioner, together with one supporter has been invited to attend the meeting and they will be invited to make a statement, lasting no more than 10 minutes, in support of the petition.
- 1.7 The role of the Board is to consider the petition, hear and ask questions of the petitioner and take the appropriate action in respect of the petition which will be one of the following: (a) no action is taken, in which case the reasons will be specified and intimated to the petitioner; (b) that the petition be referred to the relevant director/and or policy board for further investigation with or without any specific recommendation; or (c) refer the petition to another organisation if the petition relates to that organisation.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board hear from the petitioner.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
3. **Community Planning** – none
4. **Legal** – none
5. **Property/Assets** – none
6. **Information Technology** - none
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website
8. **Health & Safety** - none
9. **Procurement** – none
10. **Risk** – none
11. **Privacy Impact** - none

List of Background Papers – petition form

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