

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Petitions Board

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 30 August 2017	14:30	Corporate Meeting Room 3, Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1AN

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Head of Corporate Governance

### Membership

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

Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor (Convener): Councillor Michelle Campbell (Depute Convener):

### 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](http://www.renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx)

For further information, please either email [democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk) or telephone 0141 618 7112.

### 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.

## 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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|----------|---|---------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Annual Report of Petitions received and their Outcomes</b> | <b>3 - 8</b>  |
|          | Report by the Director of Finance and Resources.              |               |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Petition: Carers' Transport Costs</b>                      | <b>9 - 14</b> |
|          | Report by the Director of Finance and Resources.              |               |



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**To: Petitions Board**

**On: 30 August 2017**

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**Report by: Director of Finance & Resources**

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**Heading: Annual Report of Petitions received and their Outcomes**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The annual report highlights petitions considered by the former Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board during the period September 2016 to March 2017 during which the Board met on four occasions.
- 1.2 Following the Local Government Elections in May 2017 and subsequent changes to the Council's decision-making structure approved at the Statutory Meeting on 18 May 2017, the petitions function was separated from the audit and scrutiny function and the Petitions Board was established. The Petitions Board met on one occasion during the reporting period. This report also highlights petitions considered by the Petitions Board in June 2017.
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**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Annual Report on petitions received and their outcomes, be noted.
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### 3. **Background**

- 3.1 Seven petitions were considered by the former Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board and two by this Board during the period covered by the report, three of which were continued from the previous reporting period. Details of the petitions received and their outcomes are set out in the appendix to this report.

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### **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 .
  12. **Cosla Policy Position** – none
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## List of Background Papers - None

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**Author:** Lilian Belshaw, Democratic Services Manager  
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	<b>Subject of Petition</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Update/progress</b>
1	Request for speed bumps in Tiree Avenue for the safety of local children and drivers.	The Board noted that the petitioner did not wish to pursue the petition further and that no further action be taken on the petition.	N/A
2	Request for a pedestrian crossing or a central island near the entrance to the RAH driveway and request for a pedestrian crossing or central island on Corsebar Road near the entrance to the RAH driveway	The Board agreed that no further action be taken in relation to the petition and that the Convener write to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport in relation to why the routes of some bus services did not include the hospital. The Board agreed that the petition be continued to a future meeting of the Board and that the Transportation Manager liaise with the Royal Alexandra Hospital in relation to their views on a pedestrian crossing on Corsebar Road in the vicinity of the entrance to the hospital; and that with reference to the Head of Amenity Services' comment that the site's injury record did not justify an intervention, the Board be provided with details of the injury record and what would justify an intervention.	<p>The petition has been discussed with the RAH management and they see no requirement for a crossing near to their entrance. The Council has no plans to provide a crossing at this location. The Board agreed that no further action be taken on the petition. A letter was issued to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport by the former Convener in May 2017. SPT responded indicating that all buses operating on Corsebar Road are scheduled to operate via the bus stop within the hospital grounds and that SPT will monitor services where concerns of poor service were highlighted.</p> <p>The Head of Amenity Services has confirmed that there have been no recorded incidences of accidents at the location over the past three years.</p>
3	Request to make Sergeant Law Road at the junction of Gleniffer Braes safer for all road users by putting traffic calming	The Board agreed that the improvements which had been or were being put in place be noted; that it be recommended that the	The recommendations were carried out, reduction to 30mph speed limit has now been

	measures, i.e. reduce speed limit, all vegetation away from sides of road to allow drivers more visibility, install mirrors at junction, and any other safety measures which may be allowed.	proposed reduction in the speed limit from 60 mph to 40 mph be instead to 30 mph; that it be noted that the Transportation Manager would arrange a meeting with the petitioner and Police Scotland in relation to the recommended reduction to 30 mph; and that a site visit be arranged for those members of the Board who wished to attend.	implemented, refurbishment of the signage and lining carried out and vegetation cut back.  The Transportation Manager has advised that he is in contact with the petitioner to keep her updated on the temporary Driver Feedback Signs that have been installed to monitor the speeds of vehicles.
4	Request to make the Council aware of the poor condition of Morar Crescent's Bishopston, Road Surface. Council action required would be to repair and re-surface the road in Morar Crescent, Bishopston to an acceptable standard.	The Board agreed that no action be taken on the petition and that it be recommended that Morar Crescent, Bishopston be assessed using the same criteria as all other roads in Renfrewshire in terms of being included in the 2017/18 programme.	N/A
5	Request to address traffic concerns, in particular 'speeding' on Newmains Road, Renfrew.	The Board agreed that the matter be referred to Police Scotland to conduct monitoring at appropriate times and that the petitioner and Police Scotland be invited to a future meeting of the Board at which time the petition would be considered further.	Petition to be considered further at the meeting of the Petitions Board to be held on 30 August 2017 - ongoing
6	Request for the removal of the safety hazard caused by the position of parking bays outside 86a Renfrew Road; for a Health and Safety assessment of the risk to be undertaken; and for the pavement to be re-instated and metal bollards on the pavement to prevent on pavement parking.	The Board agreed that the matters contained in the petition be referred to the Director of Community Resources with the recommendation that bollards be erected on the pavement outside the Petitioner's property.	The recommendations were carried out and the Transport Manager has advised that bollards have been installed.

7	Request for the reinstatement of the bus stop and shelter on Barhead Road, adjacent to Barscube Terrace - because of concerns and issues of access for disabled and elderly passengers."	The Board agreed that no further action be taken in relation to the petition and that a letter be sent to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport requesting that the bus shelter be removed as soon as it was contractually possible to do so.	
8	Request for 3 sets of speed bumps to be installed within the estate at The Wickets, Paisley	The Board agreed that no further action be taken in relation to the petition.	N/A
9	Request for concessionary or discounted fares for carers to assist with transport costs	The Board agreed that consideration of the petition be continued to allow the Board to be provided with further information on the number of carers in Renfrewshire.	Petition to be considered further at the meeting of the Petitions Board to be held on 30 August 2017 – ongoing





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**To: Petitions Board**

**On: 30 August 2017**

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**Report by: Director of Finance and Resources**

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**Heading: Petition: Carers' Transport Costs**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 A petition comprising 1491 online signatures was received from Ms Amanda Macdonald in the undernoted terms and was considered at the meeting of the Board held on 7 June 2017:

"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 The report to the meeting on 7 June 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”.

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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Board resumes consideration of the petition.
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## **3 Background**

- 3.1 The report to the meeting held on 7 June also intimated that the Head of Early Years and Inclusion advised that there were new responsibilities for the Council and health in addressing the needs of carers.
- 3.2 Similarly, the Head of Adult Services advised that Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership would jointly produce a Local Carer Strategy to coincide with the implementation of the Carers (Scotland) Act from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. Carers and carer organisations would be involved in planning, shaping and reviewing services for carers through the Partnership’s Strategic Planning Group.
- 3.3 The report also advised that the Regional Child Care Commissioning Co-ordinator indicated that she was leading on the development of a Young Carers Strategy and anticipated that the draft would be ready for consultation in October 2017. She also advised that engagement activities with young carers had commenced via the Carers' Centre and the issue of transport had already arisen with young people saying that the cost of travel impeded their ability to have respite/breaks from caring. In addition the Regional Child Care Commissioning Co-ordinator advised that she would ensure that the issue of transport was explicitly addressed in the next sessions with young carers.
- 3.4 At the meeting of this Board held on 7 June 2017, having heard from Ms Macdonald and Ms Lochhead, Members sought clarification on the numbers of young carers in Renfrewshire and agreed that consideration of the Petition be continued. The Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice advises that the precise number is not known, although she estimates it to be between 100 and 150. She has information that 120 young people between the ages of 9

and 16 have identified themselves as young carers and there are 50 involved with the Carers Centre. The Head of Child Care and Criminal Justice and the Integrated Children's Services Officer have indicated that they are willing to meet with the petitioner. The Integrated Children's services Officer is a member of the working group of the Carers Steering Group looking at carers issues for young people.

- 3.5 The principal petitioner, together with one supporter has been invited to attend the meeting.
- 3.6 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.

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## 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**
- 12.           **Cosla Policy Position - none**

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**List of Background Papers – petition form**

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