

Transport and Environment Committee

10am, Tuesday, 15 March 2016

Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt - referral from the Petitions Committee

Item number	7.17
Report number	
Wards	Sighthill/Gorgie

Executive summary

The Petitions Committee on 3 February 2016 considered a report by the Chief Executive outlining the petition 'Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt'. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Transport and Environment Committee for consideration.

Links

Coalition pledges	See attached report
Council outcomes	See attached report
Single Outcome Agreement	See attached report
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Petitions for Consideration Overview Report

Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt - referral from the Petitions Committee

Terms of referral

- 1.1 On 3 February 2016 the Petitions Committee considered a report outlining the petition 'Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt'.
- 1.2 The Petitions Committee agreed:
 - 1.2.1 To refer the petition 'Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt' to the Transport and Environment Committee on 15 March 2016 for consideration.
 - 1.2.2 To refer the petition to the South West Neighbourhood Partnership for information.
 - 1.2.3 To request that a progress update be included in the Petitions Committee Business Bulletin in 6 months time.

For Decision/Action

- 2.1 The Transport and Environment Committee is asked to:
 - 2.1.1 Consider the content of the petition 'Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt' included within the attached report by the Chief Executive.

Background reading / external references

The Petitions Committee 3 February 2016.

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Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Wednesday 3 February 2016

Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

Item number	6.1
Report number	
Wards	All/ Sighthill/Gorgie

Links

Coalition pledges	
Council outcomes	CO23 & CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	

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Executive Summary

Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

Summary

The Committee is asked to consider three petitions at this meeting.

Valid petitions -

Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt

A valid petition entitled 'Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt' has been received. The petition received 383 signatures.

Details of the petition are set out in appendix one.

Re-Union Canal Boats location at Fountainbridge

A valid petition entitled 'Re-Union Canal Boats location at Fountainbridge' has been received. The petition received 270 signatures.

Details of the petition are set out in appendix one.

Charges relating to The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006

A valid petition entitled 'Charges relating to The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006' has been received. The petition received 292 from individuals and 59 signatures from businesses.

Details of the petition are set out in appendix one.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the petitions:

- 1.1 Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt as set out in 6.1(a) of Appendix one.
- 1.2 Re-Union Canal Boats location at Fountainbridge as set out in 6.1(b) of Appendix one.
- 1.3 Charges relating to The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006 as set out in 6.1(c) of Appendix one.

Measures of success

There are no immediate measures of success applicable to this report.

Financial impact

There are no financial impacts arising from the consideration of the petitions.

Equalities impact

There are no equalities impacts arising from the consideration of the petitions.

Sustainability impact

There are no sustainability impacts arising from the consideration of the petitions.

Consultation and engagement

There are no consultation or engagement requirements at this part of the process.

Background reading / external references

[Petitions webpages](#)

[Council Webcasting](#)

Links

Coalition pledges

Council outcomes CO23 Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
CO26 The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives

Single Outcome Agreement

Appendices Appendix one: Petitions for Consideration

Appendix 1 - Petitions for Consideration

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
6.1(a)	12 November 2015	<p><u>Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt</u></p> <p>Friends of Westfield Park are seeking the Council's support and investment to improve facilities, tackle problem dog fouling, and ensure that the Friends and Residents can enjoy a park that is safe clean, well used facility now and in the future.</p> <p>With the support of the Local Authority, the enthusiasm of Local Businesses, and the energy of Westfield Residents, we are keen to organise and regenerate the Park. We require advice, guidance and coordination to assist in producing designs and costings for a renovated park which we will seek to finance and deliver through the support from local business, grants from a number of charities and organisations which support the regeneration of parks and the time residents are able to volunteer.</p>	Sighthill/Gorgie	383 signatures

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
6.1(b)	19 October 2015	<p><u>Re-Union Canal Boats location at Fountainbridge</u></p> <p>Re-Union Canal Boats Ltd, a social enterprise working with communities, has had a presence at Lochrin Quay for the last 3 years, acting as a hub for canal based activities and providing a crucial connection with the canal as a working waterspace. It organises the Canal Festival each year which attracts thousands of local people and visitors and has brought life to Edinburgh Quay.</p> <p>The Edinburgh Union Canal Strategy of 2011 commends its work and has as one of its aims to increase the use of the canal as a waterspace.</p> <p>There is much concern locally that Re-Union has lost its canal-side location as premises in Edinburgh Quay are occupied by commercial businesses who can pay the higher rents but have little connection to the canal.</p> <p>Having Re-Union in a canal-side location is crucial if the benefits of the canal in the centre of our city are to be realised and should be a priority for the delivery of development at Fountainbridge. The Council is a major landowner in the area and through EDI is leading on the development of the site at Fountainbridge. I call upon the Council and EDI, as a matter of priority to develop options to secure both short term premises for Re-Union and a lasting presence in the Fountainbridge canal -side site.</p>	All	270 signatures

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
6.1(c)	6 November 2015	<p><u>Charges relating to The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006</u></p> <p>We petition the council to lobby The Scottish Government on our behalf to amend the legislation to exempt British Acupuncture Council (BAcC) members from the provisions of the skin piercing regulations.</p> <p>BAcC members abide by stringent codes of conduct and professional standards which exceed the conditions laid out in the regulations. As health professionals acupuncturists often work with clients on very low incomes or on benefits and many work on a part time basis. The high costs of the licence may make low-income work impossible. Often these clients are experiencing severe pain or mental health issues.</p> <p>We also ask as a matter of urgency for the Edinburgh City council to reduce the cost to previous levels and only increase in line with inflation instead of a 150% increase.</p> <p>The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006 was, until earlier in 2015, charged at a rate of £218 for a renewal of a skin piercing licence. The cost has risen to £500. This is excessive and damaging to the freedom to carry out a legitimate acupuncture business. We carry out beneficial work for the health of the community and this is being hampered by the high cost of the licence. The increase has meant that some acupuncturists have had to consider ceasing to work in Edinburgh.</p>	All	292 (individual) & 59 (businesses) signatures