

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CONSIDERATION OF A PETITION		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	13 APRIL 2023		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SCRUTINY MANAGER		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Executive Director – Corporate Services</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mel Creighton</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 3528</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Scrutiny Manager</b>	
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Pirnie</b>	<b>Tel: 023 8083 3886</b>
	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk</b>	
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>			
Under the Council’s Petition Scheme, set out in Part 11 of the Constitution, petitions containing a minimum of 750 but less than 1500 signatures will be referred to a public meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.			
This report details the receipt of a petition that has reached this threshold requesting £1 bus fares all across Southampton, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.			
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>			
	(i)	That the Committee discuss the petition, and the officer response provided in Appendix 1.	
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>			
1.	The Council’s Constitution states that petitions containing a minimum of 750 but less than 1500 signatures will be referred to a public meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.		
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>			
2.	None		
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>			
3.	The Council has received a petition that states: <i>‘As the cost-of-living crisis bites, we call for £1 bus fares all across Southampton - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - not just at Christmas!’</i>		
4.	The petition provides the following justification for this statement: <i>‘We the undersigned petition the council to subsidise bus fares for everyone by offering a flat £1 fare 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with a 50p flat fare for children. We welcome the Council’s limited initiative to offer evening £1 bus fares over the festive period, but the Council needs to do much more,</i>		

	<p><i>urgently. At a time of spiralling food and fuel costs, hard-working people are suffering more each day. We call for appropriate support for workers and families now, and into the future. Southampton residents desperately need practical help. In addition, this policy would reduce the number of cars on the roads and allow buses to keep to their timetables while encouraging people to use the buses again post-Covid and improve air quality for us all. A similar scheme has been rolled out in successfully in Taunton, Somerset, so why not here? Come on Southampton Council – show our hard-working families that the council is really behind them at a time of crisis. Show care for the people of Southampton every minute of the day.</i></p> <p><i>Currently a family of four can pay up to £14.40 for a return journey into the city for school, work or leisure – that’s £74.50 a week! With the cost-of-living crisis biting, families are having to choose how their ever-reducing income is being used. The current policy of £1 evening bus fares favours young people going out for the evening, but does not help families or working people, such as our fantastic key workers.</i></p> <p><i>Only 39% of people in Southampton have access to a car and only 4% use public transport at least five or more days each week, so this measure would help residents get out and about and support Southampton’s day and night time economies. In addition, it would reduce the number of cars on the roads, so would improve congestion and allow buses to keep to their timetables while encouraging people to use the buses again post-Covid, and improve air quality for us all.</i></p> <p><i>Implementing this flat-fare bus policy would actively help people’s purses from emptying, leaving them more able to buy food and keep warm. As news comes out that parents are choosing to eat less so they can put food on the table for their children, Southampton residents desperately need practical help now.</i></p> <p><i>A similar scheme has been rolled out in successfully in Taunton, Somerset, so why not here? Come on Southampton Council – show our hard-working families that the council is really behind them at a time of crisis. Show care for the people of Southampton every minute of the day – not just at Christmas time!’</i></p>
5.	The petition has 1,030 valid signatures. The officer response to the petition is set out in Appendix 1. The Cabinet Member for Transport and District Regeneration will be in attendance to discuss the petition with the petitioners and the Committee.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
6.	Detailed within the appendix
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
7.	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	

8.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.	
<b>Other Legal Implications:</b>		
9.	Detailed within the appendix	
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>		
10.	Detailed within the appendix	
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>		
11.	Detailed within the appendix	
<b>KEY DECISION</b>		No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>		None directly as a result of this report
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>		
<b>Appendices</b>		
1.	Officer response to the petition	
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>		
1.	None	
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?		No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>		
Title of Background Paper(s)		Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None	