Item 2

2nd March 2023

Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee

Report by Director of Legal and Administration

Contact: Mairi Millar Ext: 75509

REVIEW OF PUBLIC PETITIONS PROCESS

Purpose of Report:

To present proposals and a timescale for reviewing the Council's Public Petitions Process and Guidance.

Recommendations:

Committee is asked to:-

1. Agree the proposals to review the Council's Public Petitions Process and Guidance;
2. Agree the recommendation at paragraph 2.3 of this report to establish a working group to carry out the review and to contribute views as to how the process might be improved; and
3. Note the proposed timescales for the outcomes and recommendations from the review to be reported back to this Committee in Autumn 2023.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

***PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING**:*

Any Ordnance Survey mapping included within this Report is provided by Glasgow City Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function to make available Council-held public domain information. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/map data for their own use. The OS web site can be found at <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk> "

If accessing this Report via the Internet, please note that any mapping is for illustrative purposes only and is not true to any marked scale

1 Background

1.1 Glasgow City Council introduced a Public Petitions Process in 2012 in order to give members of the public further opportunities to raise issues which directly affect them and their local communities. A process was designed and implemented which allowed the public to set up a petition and to gather signatures from other Glasgow residents, which, after reaching a set number (25 signatures), would be put forward for consideration at the Petitions Committee.

1.2 Following the establishment of the new Committee structure in 2017, petitions are now heard by the Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee. Since its introduction, there have been three reviews undertaken in order to continue to improve the process and to ensure that the guidance assists members of the public to submit petitions.

1.3 The last review was undertaken in 2018/2019, with the findings and outcomes reported to Committee on 30 May 2019, which included the publication of updated guidance.

2 Review of Public Petitions Process and Guidance

2.1 It is proposed that a further review of the Public Petitions Process and Guidance is now undertaken in order to ensure that it remains sufficiently flexible, accessible and consistent with the commitments and priorities set out in the Council's new Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2027.

2.2 As part of the review, it is proposed that consideration is given to the approaches undertaken by other councils and Parliaments, both local and national, in order to identify examples of good practice. It is also proposed that the views of previous petitioners should be taken into account to learn about their experiences of the process and what, if anything, they consider could be improved.

2.3 It is suggested that as with previous reviews, a working group is established to take forward the review. It is suggested that membership should include up to 4 elected members from this Committee, community council representatives and appropriate officers from the Chief Executive's Department and NRS who are involved in supporting the petitions process. it is also proposed that a representative of the Centre for Civic Innovation should also be invited to participate in the working group.

2.4 The Council's Business Bureau will be asked to nominate members from this Committee to take part in the working group.

2.5 It is proposed that the outcomes and recommendations from the review should be reported back to this Committee in Autumn 2023.

3 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	No new cost implications anticipated.
Legal:	No new legal issues anticipated.
Personnel:	The review will be supported by existing staff in Chief Executive's Department and NRS.
Procurement:	There are no procurement implications.
Council Strategic Plan:	Grand Challenge 4: Enable staff to deliver essential services in a sustainable, innovative and efficient way for our communities. Mission 2: Run an open, well governed council in partnership with all our communities.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.	Outcome 3: Service users are provided with information accessible to them on services provided by the Council Family particularly, those who face barriers through disability, language and digital exclusion.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	Accessibility will be explored as part of this Review.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.	

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	N/A.
What are the potential climate impacts as a	N/A

result of this proposal?	
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	N/A

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report Y/N	No - there are no Privacy or Data Protection matters associated with this report.
If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out	

3 Recommendations

Committee is asked to:-

3.1 Agree the proposals to review the Council's Public Petitions Process and Guidance;

3.2 Agree the recommendation at paragraph 2.3 of this report to establish a working group to carry out the review and to contribute views as to how the process might be improved; and

3.3 Note the proposed timescales for the outcomes and recommendations from the review to be reported back to this Committee in Autumn 2023.