



**Glasgow City Council**

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

**Report by George Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods,  
Regeneration and Sustainability**

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**Briefing note on the Petition – The Mary Barbour Bridge**

**Purpose of Report:**

To provide information on the Petition – The Mary Barbour Bridge

**Recommendation:**

It is requested that the committee:

1. Note the content of the report

## 1. Purpose of report

To provide information on the Petition – The Mary Barbour Bridge.

## 2. Background

The Govan-Partick Bridge was opened to the public on 7 September 2024. Opening represented the completion of a project that was initiated almost a decade earlier following publication of the Govan-Partick Charrette (2015). The Charette brought together people from communities on both banks of the Clyde to discuss their aspirations for the future and to reach consensus on the objectives of a Strategic Development Framework for the area. A key theme that emerged from the charrette was the strong local support for a bridge to re-establish the historical link between the communities.

Throughout delivery of the project, Officers have been approached by people who have suggested that the bridge be named after various individuals and organisations including Mary Barbour, Billy Connolly, Sir Alex Ferguson, Jimmy Reid and the Merchant Navy. Officers have previously advised that there is no intention for the name to be anything other than the Govan-Partick Bridge given the important role that the structure will play in reinstating the historic link between the communities. This position was reinforced by the Leader in response to a question asked by Cllr Alam at full Council meeting on 12 December 2024. The Leader also noted that, *“a tradition has emerged in the city over recent years of unofficial names for bridges emerging organically and sticking. I suspect this may happen again in this case.”*

<https://onlineservices.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/viewDoc.asp?c=P62AFQDNNTT10GZ3Z3>

The petition presented by Govan Community Council is the first formal approach received by the Council in relation to the re-naming of the bridge.

## 3. Considerations

On the south side of the river the bridge lands within Ward 5: Govan. The bridge deck straddles the boundary of Govan and Govan East Community Council. The petition put forward by Govan Community Council has not secured the formal support of Govan East Community Council. Officers understand that members of Govan East Community Council would prefer to retain the original name which references Govan with the view that the name helps to raise the profile of the area in the context of its ongoing regeneration. Govan East Community Council acknowledge the important role played by Mary Barbour but feel that her contribution to the City has been celebrated in the statue that was erected at Govan Cross in 2018.

It is worth noting that Mary Barbour's contribution to the city is also honoured with a room in the Pearce Institute and with a blue plaque outside of a tenement at Hutton Drive. A mural of Mary Barbour and Isabella Elder was installed at Crossloan Road in 2023. A second mural reimagining Mary Barbour as a modern-day campaigner was

commissioned by Linthouse Housing Association and painted on a gable end in Govan Road in 2025.

It is noted that the petitioner hopes that re-naming the Bridge will encourage visitors to spend time exploring Govan. There is evidence that the Bridge is already having that impact. In the first year the bridge generated over 1,400,000 crossings. This is having an impact on footfall in the area. Govan Heritage Trust has reported that the number of visitors to Govan Old increased from an average of 38 per day to 177 per day following opening of the bridge. In summer 2025 the Glasgow tourist bus included a stop in Govan – this is a first for the area despite years of campaigning from local stakeholders.

On the north bank the bridge lands within Ward 10: Anderston/City/Yorkhill however it is on the boundary of Ward 12: Victoria Park and Ward 4: Partick East/Kelvindale. Officers have engaged with local members from all 3 wards and associated community councils since inception of the Govan-Partick Bridge project. The bridge is within the locus of 3 Scottish Parliamentary constituencies (Glasgow, Kelvin, Glasgow Pollok, Glasgow Southside) and 3 UK Parliamentary Constituencies (Glasgow North, Glasgow South, Glasgow South West)

The petition should be considered in the context of the Council's Street Name and Numbering Guide, which states that, “ **“It is Glasgow City Council's practice not to use the proper names of people alive or dead.”**

It is recommended that if there is a desire to re-name the Bridge then any process would have to be open and transparent providing an opportunity for all elected representatives, Community Councils and other interested parties to contribute suggestions for consideration. A similar process was recently undertaken in relation to the Sighthill Bridge. Staff resource would be required to oversee this process and there is no guarantee that it will result in consensus given the wide range of interest groups involved.

#### **4. Recommendation**

It is requested that the committee:

1. Note the content of the report