

From: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 4 May 2016

Subject: Young Persons Travel Pass - Petition Scheme Debate

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Details of petition received which will be the subject of a debate in accordance with the County Council's Petition Scheme.

## **For Decision**

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### **1. Introduction**

(1) In accordance with the Petition Scheme agreed at the County Council on 13 September 2012, any petition on a County Council matter that has more than 2,500 signatures will trigger a debate at the appropriate Cabinet Committee.

(2) The process for the debate on each petition is that the Lead Petitioner(s) will be invited to speak to the petition for up to 5 minutes. There will then be a debate of up to 35 minutes (with each Member speaking for up to 3 minutes) before the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport is invited to respond for a maximum of 5 minutes at the end of the debate to advise the Cabinet Committee how he intends to respond to the petitioners' concerns.

(3) As the subject matter of this petition relates to a matter that is the responsibility of the Council's Executive, the Cabinet Committee may decide whether to make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to inform the decision-making process.

### **2. Petition – Young Persons Travel Pass**

(1) Kent County Council has received a petition that says the following:

"I have set up this petition on behalf of all of the parents across Kent whose children use the Young Persons Travel Pass and have to use the bus to get to school. I ask the council to reconsider their decision to review the increase to the price of the pass. In recent years the price of the pass has increased from £100 to £200, followed by a further increase to £250. A total increase of 150%! This has caused extreme hardship for many families all across Kent whom work extremely hard in an already tough economy. Many of these children go to their most suitable school for them and every child deserves the best education that they can achieve. Many of the children sacrifice extremely early mornings and late evenings, tackling an incompetent, unreliable failing bus service for their right to a high standard of education. The budget is unfairly distributed with the last rise only applicable to those already paying the higher amount whilst the subsidised passes remain unaffected. It was recently confirmed by a local member of parliament that there were no imminent plans to increase the pass

further. I ask the council, on behalf of myself and every other member of the community signing this petition to reconsider their plans for the increase.

(2) The petition has attracted 3,025 signatures from people who live, work or study in Kent and therefore has triggered a debate at this Cabinet Committee.

(3) A statement from the Lead Petitioner is attached (**Appendix A**) and Ms Nicola Hibbard will not be attending the meeting and speaking to the petition.

(4) A response from Kent County Council's the Public Transport Team is also attached (**Appendix B**).

### **3. Recommendation**

The Cabinet Committee is invited to consider whether to make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport in relation to the action taken by the petitioners.

#### **Report Author**

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Background Documents: None