

Transport and Environment Committee

10am, Tuesday, 25 August 2015

Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition - referral from the Petitions Committee

Item number	7.19
Report number	
Wards	City Wide

Executive summary

The Petitions Committee on 11 June 2015 considered a report by the Director of Corporate Governance outlining the petition 'Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition'.

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

Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition

Terms of referral

- 1.1 On 11 June 2015 the Petitions Committee considered a report outlining the petition 'Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition'.
- 1.2 The Petitions Committee agreed:
 - 1.2.1 To refer the petition 'Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial' to the Culture and Sport Committee on 18 August 2015 for information.
 - 1.2.2 To refer the petition 'Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial' to the Transport and Environment Committee on 25 August 2015 for consideration.
 - 1.2.3 To endorse the proposed Conscientious Objectors Memorial with a recommendation that it should be sited within the city centre.
 - 1.2.4 That Officers contact the Principal Petitioner to explore a possible location, design and timescale for the installation any future memorial.

For Decision/Action

- 2.1 The Transport and Environment Committee is asked to consider the content of petition included within the attached report by the Director of Corporate Governance.

Background reading / external references

The Petitions Committee 11 June 2015

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Head of Legal, Risk and Compliance

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Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 11 June 2015

Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

Item number	6.1
Report number	
Wards	City Wide

Links

Coalition pledges	
Council outcomes	CO23 & CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	

Alastair D Maclean

Director of Corporate Governance

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Executive Summary

Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

Summary

The Committee is asked to consider one petition at this meeting.

Valid petition -

Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition

A valid petition entitled 'Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition' has been received. The petition received 453 signatures.

Details of this petition are set out in appendix one.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the petition:

'Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition' as set out in 5.1(a) of Appendix one.

Measures of success

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

Financial impact

There is no financial impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

Equalities impact

There is no equalities impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

Environmental impact

There is no environmental impact arising from the consideration of this petition.

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 Received	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
5.1(a)	19 March 2015	<p><u>Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition</u></p> <p>With respect to the life and death choices of all those who have taken part in or supported wars we the undersigned therefore call upon the City of Edinburgh Council to grant the use of a permanent public space within the precincts of Princes St Gardens and to provide material and financial support for a memorial to Conscientious Objectors and those who oppose wars. We ask that this be facilitated by February 2016 to coincide with the centenary of the passage of the Military Service Act which led to conscription in 1916.</p> <p>With the Centenary of the First World War there is a feeling that there should be a memorial in Scotland's capital city to conscientious objectors and opponents of wars which would henceforth provide a public focus for those who wish to gather to remember all those, past or present, refusing to participate in or opposing wars.</p> <p>Taking this stance meant considerable hardship for those who refused to participate in or support the First World War and their families, that over 300 British "Deserters" were shot, and Conscientious Objectors were subjected to harsh treatment by the military, in prison, and in their communities and 73 First World War conscientious objectors died in or following imprisonment; their courageous stance cleared the way for improved recognition of the right to oppose war and to refuse to take part in wars and helped lay the foundations for the promotion of peaceful means for the resolution of conflicts and for achieving a just peace.</p>	Citywide	453 signatures