

COUNCIL – 23 APRIL 2015

PUBLIC PETITION

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme set out in Chapter 12 of the Council Constitution, a public petition has been submitted for consideration at the Council meeting.

The lead petitioner for the petition deputation will be given five minutes to present the petition at the Council meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting and the lead petitioner will receive written confirmation of the decision.

The petition containing 5,465 signatures has been submitted by Mrs Joanne Allman of Formby on behalf of 'SOS Transport Sefton' which states:

"We, the undersigned, are calling on you to continue providing free school and college transport for disabled children and young people over 16.

We are concerned that many children and young people with SEND in the borough do not have the necessary skills to access the Travel Training programme that, according to Sefton Council's proposed changes, may replace free post-16 transport, nor are they able to travel to school or college independently. We do not believe it is fair or equitable to expect parents of these children to take responsibility for their transport to and from school or college.

It is ironic, given the Council's expressed interest in promoting independence skills, that the proposed changes will in fact have the opposite effect for many children and young people with SEND, if they have to be escorted to school by their parents rather than travelling by minibus or taxi. We feel it is patently unjust to target cost-saving measures at the most vulnerable in society, and that it is tantamount to discrimination to penalise already hard-pressed families because their children's disabilities prevent them from accessing the support offered by the Council.

Please take account of the views of the people of Sefton in the Public Consultation on Post-16 SEN Transport."