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## NOTICE OF MOTION TO MORAY COUNCIL ON 28 JUNE 2023

### **Save Our Surgeries (SOS) Group – Hopeman and Burghead GP Surgeries**

Hopeman and Burghead communities established the Save Our Surgeries (SOS) Group following the decision on 26 January 2023 by MIJB to “work with partners to establish a sustainable transport solution, such as a Coastal dial a bus and/or alternative that will meet the needs of residents attending medical appointments”.

Council acknowledges that members of our community believe the current proposals by the MIJB do not meet the community’s aspirations for Primary Care in Burghead, Hopeman and surrounding areas.

While the council has no remit over decisions taken by MIJB, the decision around dial a bus impacts on council services. MConnect service, as a generic service, is not designed for transporting residents for specific purposes. Further these communities have stressed that MConnect is not the solution due to its limited operating hours. The decision identifying the use of dial a bus service may be creating a precedent for this service; creates increased costs in providing the service; and potentially limits the council’s flexibility to alter the service.

Additionally, the SOS group have continued to request a meeting with the Moray Coast Medical Practice and for consideration of their request for a locally delivered GP service in Hopeman and Burghead under a separate GP contract. Councillors have a remit within their Code of Conduct to be lobbied by constituents within their communities. It seems reasonable in this situation for Councillors to ask the council to pass on community concerns to other bodies, in this case MIJB and NHS Grampian. This supports the Council’s Corporate Plan Vision, in particular: ‘Our People: Provide opportunities for people to be the best they can be throughout their lives with a strong and sustained focus on those individuals and groups in our society who experience the most disadvantage and discrimination.’ and ‘Our Place: Empower and support communities to build capacity.’

Council agrees to:

1. Reiterate the purpose of MConnect in line with existing reports to Full Council and Economic Development and Infrastructure Services Committee which set out the remit of the Growth Deal project and the operational priorities.
2. Seek clarification from officers about any identified transport needs and public transport use to date to coastal health care settings.

3. Set out that any dedicated transport resource should be submitted to the Council as a request from the MIJB for officers to assess and present to committee for decision-making.
4. Instructs the Council Leader to write to the Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Officer of MIJB seeking their support to hold a meeting between the SOS Group and the Moray Coast Medical Practice.
5. Instructs the Council Leader to write to NHS Grampian to seek clarification on whether any action has been taken to attract a GP to deliver a local service in Hopeman and Burghead.

**Proposer: Councillor Bridget Mustard**

**Seconder: Councillor Neil Cameron**