

MINUTES OF CABINET MEETING HELD 1 JULY 2013

PRESENT

Cabinet Members: Councillor Cereste (chair), Councillor Elsey, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Goodwin, Councillor Holdich, Councillor North, Councillor Scott, Councillor Seaton and Councillor Walsh.

Cabinet Advisers: Councillor Casey, Councillor Dalton, Councillor Goodwin and Councillor Todd

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Holdich, Cereste and Goodwin declared an interest in item 6 on the agenda as members of the Opportunity Peterborough Board and would speak but not vote on the item.

Councillor Seaton declared an interest in item 6 on the agenda as a member of the Opportunity Peterborough Audit Committee.

Councillor Dalton declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda as a resident of Princes Gardens that was referred to in a petition.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 25 MARCH 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2013 were agreed as an accurate record.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

4. PASSENGER TRANSPORT – SUBSIDISED SERVICE PROVISION

Cabinet received a report to consider and determine the service provision that would meet the indicative budgetary requirement of £600,000 for subsidised passenger transport services as allocated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Councillor Cereste introduced the report and further detail was given on the proposals by the Council's Transport Infrastructure Planning Manager. Further to this Councillors Rush and Harrington addressed Cabinet on behalf of the Cabinet Advisory Group that had been established and summarised concerns and the outcome of its report.

Cabinet debated the report raising issues including: the needs of elderly residents; the importance of continued access to nearby bus stops; the greater flexibility of demand response transport; the procurement of replacement services would include the requirements of access and availability of services at peak times; and the need to ensure residents were not left isolated.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. Continue to fund the existing Demand Responsive Transport services at current levels of subsidy of £180,000 and to increase the investment in Demand Responsive Transport Services;
2. Invest £220,000 in expanding the Demand Responsive Transport service available to residents in Peterborough;
3. Reduce the Voluntary Partnership Agreement funding with Stagecoach to £200,000;
4. Invest any savings below the £220,000 budgeted for the expanded Demand Responsive Transport service into additional evening services provided within the Voluntary Partnership Agreement;
5. Discontinue all the funding for Local Link services;
6. Discontinue all the funding to some daytime services on the Kimes 9 service;
7. Discontinue all funding to some daytime services on Stagecoach route 24;
8. Discontinue all funding to Sunday services on Stagecoach route 37; and
9. Discontinue all funding for the Luxecabs service.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Current Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) - retained

There is a need to retain the current demand responsive services as these operate where no other passenger transport service exists and also some accommodate travel for those who cannot use other public transport services (for example as they have mobility difficulties).

£200k of voluntary service partnership - retained

It was not possible to mitigate all current evening services that are subsidised through demand responsive transport service so £200,000 was retained for this.

Local Link – discontinue

Most residents in the urban areas of Peterborough are in walking distance to access other commercial services rather than the Local Link Service. Those that are unable to walk the additional distance to alternative commercial services in the urban areas due to the discontinuation of the Local Link services may be eligible to access the other Demand Responsive Transport services.

Local Link - discontinued and replaced by increased DRT

Demand responsive transport gives the best opportunity to mitigate the impacts identified in the Local Link rural Equality Impact Assessments by commissioning a bespoke service to target resources where the demand for travel is high. Timetabled services operate whether there is a demand for the service or not and replacing the Local link service with DRT allows a bespoke service to try to target resources to meet the travelling needs of the public.

Kimes 9 - discontinue

There are 20 journeys on the Kimes 9 that are not currently subsidised by Peterborough City Council and it is hoped they would continue to run. The two Kimes 9 Services that operate at a time suitable for school children was shown to be full during our on-bus surveys and it is hoped therefore that these would continue

Luxecab - discontinued

Residents who use LUXECAB currently have access to an alternative high quality Demand Responsive Service designed for those with mobility issues to take them into Peterborough.

VPA - reduction

The council only subsidises some evening services on the Stagecoach 24 and on Sundays for the Stagecoach 37 and it is hoped that the other non subsidised journeys would continue. Through discussions with the operator it is believed that any reduction in the Stagecoach Citi buses evening service that may occur due to the reduction in subsidises would be minimum.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following alternatives were considered when making the recommendation outlined in this report:

1. Continuing with the existing service has been considered, however this was ruled out, as the budget for passenger transport subsidised services set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and agreed by Full Council on 6 March 2013 was insufficient to do so. Market testing was carried out to determine if this option was achievable through efficiencies provided by re-procuring services and the results categorically ruled this option out. Instead of an existing budget of £1,100,000, a budget up to £1,900,000 would be required to maintain the current service.
2. All of the subsidised services were reviewed and different scenarios and options of which services to retain have been considered within this exercise. The findings of the Equality Impact Assessments were considered and the alternative service options were deemed to offer a reduced potential for mitigating the affects of reducing the overall service provision.

Please note that although the other options were deemed to be less attractive than the option recommended in this report; there are other service options that will be appropriate for consideration if the procurement process is unable to deliver this recommended preferred option. (See section 11.2, risk, of the report)

3. The advice from the cabinet advisory group (see consultation section 5.1) had been considered. This option has been ruled out, as it exceeds the budget available for passenger transport subsidised services as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
4. To subsidise none of the current services provided by the Council was considered however this was ruled out following the impacts identified in the Equality Impact Assessments.

MONITORING ITEMS

5. BUDGET MONITORING – FINAL OUTTURN 2012-13

Cabinet received a report advising it of the final financial position for the revenue budget, capital programme and final reserves position for 2012/13.

Councillor Seaton introduced the report highlighting the continued government grant reductions, savings achieved by the council and a small budget surplus at the end of the year. Councillor Seaton expressed his thanks to officers and councillors for their work.

During debate Cabinet highlighted the importance of revenue generating projects to ensure the continued provision of services without imposing cuts or cost rises.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note:

1. The final outturn position of £135k under spend on the Council's revenue budget 2012/13 and that this is an improvement since the probable outturn position;
2. The final outturn position of £111.7m on the Council's capital budget 2012/13;
3. The reserves position for the Council;
4. The performance against the prudential indicators; and
5. The performance on treasury management activities, payment of creditors, collection performance for debtors, local taxation and benefit overpayments.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This monitoring report for the 2012/13 financial year forms part of the closure of accounts and decision making framework culminating in the production of the Statement of Accounts and informs Cabinet of the final position.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None required at this stage.

6. OPPORTUNITY PETERBOROUGH BUSINESS PLAN

Cabinet received a report requesting it endorsed the Opportunity Peterborough annual business plan. As sole funder it was important that the Council was satisfied that the draft business plan would deliver the objectives agreed.

Councillor Cereste introduced the report with further details provided by the Chief Executive of Opportunity Peterborough.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

Endorse the 2013/14 business plan for Opportunity Peterborough.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It was required that the Council considered and agreed the draft business plan. The specific schemes for implementation would potentially evolve during the course of the plan period and it was therefore appropriate that funding was approved by the Council through its normal decision-making processes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The draft business plan could not be approved: this would significantly limit the operations of Opportunity Peterborough as the City's Economic Development Company.

7. PUBLIC HEALTH BUSINESS PLAN

Cabinet received a report that gave an overview of Public Health responsibilities that had transferred to the local authority, along with details of how these responsibilities would be delivered during 2013/14.

Councillor Walsh introduced the report. Further information highlighted during debate included: commissioning and coordination of screening and vaccination programmes were the responsibility of NHS England; health service commissioning for 0-5 year olds was the responsibility of NHS England until 2015 when it was planned that these services would be transferred to upper tier Local Authorities; future focus on preventative health care plans; there were a number of national tools that have been developed to help local areas to better understand the health status of their local population including the Longer Lives toolkit..

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

Note the information provided within the report and at Appendix 1, Delivering Public Health in Peterborough, Public Health Business Plan 2013/2014.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

From 1 April 2013, the Council had a new statutory duty to improve and protect the health of the population of Peterborough. The Public Health roles, functions and resources that have transferred are intended to support the Council in fulfilling this new duty. This report (and its accompanying appendix) provided Cabinet with information concerning plans to deliver Public Health functions during this first transitional year.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Business Plan set out the context for the transfer of Public Health along with details of the roles and responsibilities that have been transferred to the Council as part of the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act (2012). Alternative options for the configuration of Public Health within the Council were considered during 2012/2013 and were detailed within the Public Health transition plan: Options for delivering Public Health in Peterborough. The option chosen was to integrate PH functions rather than choose a 'lift and shift' option. Therefore the business plan focuses on taking forward the model of integration.

8. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

Cabinet received a report updating it on the progress being made in response to petitions in accordance with Standing Order 13 of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Councillor Cereste introduced the report.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

Note the action taken in respect of petitions presented to full Council.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Standing Orders required that Council receive a report about the action taken on petitions. As the petitions presented in this report have been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers it is appropriate that the action taken is reported to Cabinet, prior to it being included within the Executive's report to full Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Any alternative options would require an amendment to the Council's Constitution to remove the requirement to report to Cabinet.