

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
20 JANUARY 2014	PUBLIC REPORT

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OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Directors	Deadline date : N/A
1. That Cabinet notes the action taken in respect of petitions presented to full Council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the presentation of petitions to full Council.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions in accordance with Standing Order 13 of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.3 – 'To take a leading role in promoting the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area'.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

4.1 Petition against the withdrawal of the Route 406 bus service along Garton End Road, Peterborough

This petition was presented to full Council on 4 December 2013 by Councillor John Shearman and requested that the Council and Stagecoach commence discussions, with a view to re-routing, along Garton End Road and Elmfield Road, a number of journeys each day on Route 2. The Council's Transport and Infrastructure Planning Manager responded stating that he had brought the issue up on a number of occasions with Stagecoach and it was proposed, with Councillor Shearman's agreement, that a meeting be organised between Stagecoach, Councillor Shearman and the Transport and Infrastructure Planning Manager in order for further face to face discussions to be held around the issue. This was welcomed by Councillor Shearman.

4.2 Petition objecting to Tesco opening a store on Oundle Road (Boro Bar Site)

This petition was presented to full Council on 4 December 2013 by Councillor Nick Thulbourn and requested that the Council look into its existing powers and options for further action to be taken to ensure the Tesco development did not go ahead, until the local residents had been consulted and were in agreement. The Council's Group Manager

Development Management responded advising why some developments, including some changes of use to land and buildings, could take place without the need for planning permission to be applied for, this being permitted development, an example of which being the change of use from a public house to a shop.

A local planning authority does have power to remove permitted development rights through what is known as an Article 4 direction (under the Town & Country Planning General Permitted Development Order) and Article 4 directions must be made in accordance with national Government guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* which directs that there must be a clear justification for removing national permitted development rights

An Article 4 direction would not be appropriate in the case of the Boro Bar for a number of reasons and the consideration of whether or not to make an Article 4 Direction rests with the City Council's Planning and Environmental Protection Committee. On the basis of the assessment undertaken, which had identified no merits in the case for an Article 4 Direction, the Director of Growth and Regeneration is not minded to present a report on the matter to the Committee.

4.3 **Petition objecting to the proposed closure of six Peterborough Children's Centres by Peterborough City Council**

This petition was presented to full Council on 4 December 2013 by a member of the public, Mrs Angela Brennan, requesting that the proposals to close down six children's centres and to restructure others, be rescinded. The Council's Director for Communities responded stating that the consultation document had been sent to all interested parties and a questionnaire had been devised to gather responses. Both the consultation document and questionnaire had appeared on a dedicated link on the council's website.

All relevant statutory bodies had been consulted and the commissioned organisations who ran the children's centres, Barnardos and Spurgeons had also been consulted. Six public consultation events had been held, one in each locality, and these had been attended by a total of 107 people. In addition, officers were due to meet with members of the children's centres parents' advisory board and parents/others who attended the individual centres in all 15 of the children's centres to hear their views and to take away their suggestions and concerns.

Meetings at Fulbridge, Werrington, Bretton, Brewster Avenue/Stanground, Gladstone and East children's centres had taken place on Tuesday 10 December 2013 and a meeting at Hampton children's centre had taken place on Wednesday 11 December.

A report was due to go to Scrutiny on the 6 January and to Cabinet on 20 January. Both reports would include what the public's views were on the proposal and that the proposal may be amended in response to these views.

4.4 **Petition requesting that the Council rescind the proposals to close down six children's centres and to restructure others**

This petition was presented to full Council on 4 December 2013 by a member of the public requesting that the proposals to close down six children's centres and to restructure others, be rescinded. The Council's Director for Communities responded as per paragraph 4.3 above.

4.5 **Petition requesting that the Council rescind the proposals to close down Hampton and five other children's centres and to restructure the others**

This petition was presented to full Council on 4 December 2013 by a member of the public, Ms Faustina Yang, requesting that the proposals to close down Hampton Children's Centre

and to restructure the others be rescinded. The Council's Director for Communities responded as per paragraph 4.3 above.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Standing Orders require 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.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

- 8.1 Petitions presented to full Council and responses from officers.

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