

<b>CABINET</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
<b>22 SEPTEMBER 2014</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

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**OUTCOME OF PETITIONS**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM : Directors</b>	<b>Deadline date : N/A</b>
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.
- 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’.
- 2.3 The present petitions scheme is currently under review and a report will be presented to Full Council in due course.

**3. TIMESCALE**

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

**4.1 Petition relating to the re-introduction of the Local Link 406 bus service or similar**

This petition was presented to full Council on 23 July 2014 by Councillor Darren Fower and requested exploration of the re-introduction of the Local Link 406 bus service, or something similar, to allow residents to continue to receive a service that benefitted them and subsequently the places they were then able to visit.

The Council’s Principal Sustainable Transport Planning Officer responded stating that ‘the changes to subsidised bus services that came into effect on 1 October 2013, including the withdrawal of the Local Link 406, were necessary because 43% of the Government grant had been lost, or £25 million, in just five years and this meant, as well as making efficiencies, delivering services differently had to be explored. At a meeting of the Full Council in March 2013, Councillors had agreed to cut the amount it spent on subsidising bus services from £1.1 million to £600,000 as part of the budget setting process. However, it would have cost £1.9 million per year to operate all subsidised services as Local Link was operating at a loss.

The Local Link services were replaced by three new subsidised services and Stagecoach won the contract to operate these (service 20, 21 and 22). When designing these services in 2013, particular attention was paid to the Equality Impact Assessments that were carried out and helped inform the decision of where to route the new services. This included rural areas that would have been left without any form of public transport as well as having due regard for the entire urban area. Given the reduced funding it was not possible to have the same level of coverage with these new routes.

The 20, 21 and 22 services were due to be reviewed later in the year but there was no plans to reinstate the 406 service at the current time. A period of time was sought before reviewing the services to allow them to bed-in, get feedback from residents across the whole of the unitary area and to see whether the commercial bus market put on any additional services in response to the reduction in subsidised services’.

#### 4.2 **Petition objecting to the proposed planning application of development of a garage site behind 18 Acacia Avenue, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough**

This petition was presented to full Council on 23 July 2014 by Councillor Adrian Miners and requested that consideration be given, for the reasons outlined in the petition, to permission not being granted for the development.

The Council’s Director of Growth and Regeneration responded stating that ‘the petition and covering letter would be held on the application file which was open to public inspection. Regrettably we are unable to enter into more detailed correspondence about any additional questions that you may have asked in your letter. Your views will be taken into account when a decision is made on the application. For your information, most applications are decided by planning officers under delegated powers and not at a formal committee meeting of the Council. If this application should be one of the few to be decided at a formal committee meeting, we will write to you about a week before the meeting and tell you of the arrangements for objectors/supporters to speak at the meeting’.

### **5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 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 There have been no alternative options considered.

### **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.