

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 11
19 JANUARY 2015	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
It is recommended that Cabinet notes the action taken in respect of petitions presented to Council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the presentation of petitions to 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 Council in due course.

3. TIMESCALE

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

4.1 Petition relating to Bushfield Bowls Club

This petition was presented to Council on 17 December 2014 by a member of the public, Mr Bernard Barker, and requested:

1. That Councillors regard senior sport as an important priority because it safeguards the health and welfare of older people;
2. That Council budget decisions should take account of lost capital assets and future NHS costs, rather than focus on immediate savings;
3. That Council continues to support the unique role of Bushfield Bowls Club as the only lawn bowling green in the whole of the Ortons; and
4. That the Council not force the closure of a thriving club that plays an invaluable part in the life of the community.

Amey's Partnership Manager responded stating that "I would like to confirm we have now met with all affected Bowls clubs to look at jointly working together on solutions to retain the current Bowls provision whilst still making the necessary savings that Council requires to achieve a balanced budget as required by law.

I can confirm that these meetings have been extremely productive and all clubs have offered some constructive ideas.

We are looking to gather all the information early in the New Year and arrange to re-meet with all clubs to establish the best way forwards".

4.2 **Petition relating to Bretton Library**

This petition was presented to Council on 17 December 2014 by Councillor Ann Sylvester which opposed any further cuts in library opening hours and staff, or the closure of Bretton Library.

The Council's Client Manager, Culture and Leisure responded stating that "Full Council received a petition with 537 signatures opposing further cuts in library opening hours and staff or the closure of Bretton Library on the 17th December, the petition was accompanied by 47 surveys from users of Bretton. As lead on the review of Peterborough library services, I have taken into account the request made within the petition and I have also added the friends of Bretton library survey results into the consultation survey the council carried out which ended in October.

In total, 5,110 responses were received to the consultation (the highest response rate to a consultation exercise received in recent years). The question 'what is most important to you about a library service?' received three strikingly significant responses:

- The books on the shelves (87.2% said extremely important)
- The location (70.4% said extremely important) and
- Access to information (55.6% said extremely important)

The consultation has shown that libraries are an overwhelmingly a local service, with 75% of library users travelling less than 2 miles to use a library, and 43% of library users walking to the library (rising to 90% for the users of Eye and Thorney library).

The public were also asked what factors would encourage more use of the library service, with accessing the library building outside normal hours receiving the highest response: 35.4% of respondents said this would be extremely important and 39.1% said it was quite important.

The results from the friends of Bretton library survey show that most people value books and the location of their library. These findings have been taken into consideration when developing the new model of library services.

The main findings from the friends of Bretton library survey are as follows:

- The location of the library (47 responses)
- The books on the shelves (41 responses)
- Use of Computers (9 responses)
- Social activities (8 responses)

We believe there is a different, delivery model for Peterborough library services that will secure a financially sustainable offer, meet the needs of the public and that can be configured to fulfil the councils obligation under the 1964 Act. This approach is detailed in

the report to Cabinet (for its meeting on 19th January 2015) and will form the basis of a second public consultation leading to a decision by Cabinet on 23rd March 2015”.

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.
- 5.2 Cabinet will be aware that the proposals in respect of bowling greens have been deferred for phase 2 of the Budget consultation. Phase 2 of the budget also covers our proposals for the library service. The petitions received will be considered alongside the Council's analysis of all further consultation responses received in respect of phase 2 budget proposals.

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 Council and responses from officers.

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