

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
25 MARCH 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	Pippa Turvey, Democratic and Constitutional Services Manager	Tel. 452460

OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Directors</i>	Deadline date: <i>N/A</i>
It is recommended that Cabinet notes the actions taken in respect of petitions.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted following the submission of E-Petitions, the presentation of petitions to Council officers, and the presentation of petitions at Council meetings.

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 submitted to the Council.
- 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. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Petitions Presented at Council Offices

Stop the Bus Cuts

The petition was submitted by Beki Sellick on 11 February 2019. The petition contained 97 valid signatures and called on the Council "to withdraw plans to cut their bus subsidy by £150,000."

The Group Transport and Environment responded:

"Thank you for your petition. A proposal to reduce the council's spend on subsidised transport by £150,000 was approved by Full Council on 12 December 2018 and officers were specifically asked to identify options for achieving this reduction, in consultation with Group Representatives, without impacting 'demand responsive' services (i.e. Call Connect and

Community Link). Instead they considered the £520,000 budget for the 60s services and the evening and weekend services that the Council supports on Stagecoach's Citi network.

Stagecoach 60s services: These services replaced some of the old 'Local Link' services in 2013 and were specifically designed to provide a bus service to those people who, due to location, are not served by a commercial bus service. In spring 2015 a working group was established to consider options to enhance bus provision in the city. The group subsequently agreed to invest an extra £100,000 annually to enhance the services already in place. Passenger numbers provided by Stagecoach show that the 48% additional investment has resulted in just a 9.8% increase in the number of trips when comparing the original services (2015/16) to the revised services (2017/18). In order to review these services officers met with Stagecoach to discuss different options. Initial proposals received from Stagecoach included removing some early morning, late evening and all Saturday services on these routes. After discussion with members from the Cross Party Consultation Group a second proposal was received from Stagecoach which would replicate a revised Monday to Friday timetable on a Saturday and would result in the following changes:

- 60 – no change to the current timetable;
- 61 – withdraw 0534 and all services after the 1839;
- 62 – withdraw 0509, 1955 and 2315;
- 63 – no change to the current timetable.

In order to ascertain the impact of these proposed changes officers requested passenger data from Stagecoach. This made it clear that the number of trips made on these services is extremely low, with some services not being used at all. In order to validate this information officers travelled on each of these services for one week day and one Saturday in January. This showed that these numbers are broadly accurate with no more than three passengers using any timetabled trip. In addition officers were able to identify that of the 24 people surveyed 16 could've made their trip via an alternative, albeit potentially less convenient, route.

Alongside this officers have also undertaken contract renegotiations for the Citi services with Stagecoach which will result in no changes to the service provision but collectively will enable the Council to achieve the £150k reduction required. A report detailing the proposed changes was presented to the Joint Meeting of Scrutiny Committees on 12 February 2019 and the recommendations contained in it were agreed. Subsequently a Cabinet Member Decision has been taken to allow the timetable changes to be implemented and we will be sharing more information on the changes with the public over the coming weeks.

In summary, whilst the Council recognise that there may not be an alternative public transport option available in all cases, the Council feel that the proposal to change these services is necessary in order to deliver a balanced budget and is proportionate and objectively justified given the low level of usage."

Petitions Presented at Council Meetings

Clarence Road Resident's Parking

The petition was submitted by Beki Sellick on 11 February 2019. The petition contained 97 valid signatures and called on the Council revoke "the Residents Only Parking designation for our stretch of the road ... All the other streets immediately surrounding our stretch of the road have no residents only restrictions."

Head of Peterborough Highway Services responded:

"Thank you for submitted the above petition. The resident parking restrictions in Clarence Road were introduced in November 2008. In order to revoke the residents parking restrictions the Council need to follow a standard stator process which involves publishing the details of the proposal in a legal order that is then issues for public consultation. Once the order is published there is a minimum period of 3 weeks where members of public are able to submit their views.

This is then reviewed and a decision taken. From the date of issuing the consultation it would typically take 4-6 months to conclude the process. It should be noted that we cannot confirm at this stage whether this will result in your desired outcome.

We shall arrange for this request to be added to our next suitable legal order which is anticipated to be issued for consultation in late May or June 2019.

5. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 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.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 There have been no alternative options considered.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal, financial, or equalities implications arising from the issues considered.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

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

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 None.

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