

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
29 SEPTEMBER 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member	Councillor Diane Lamb, Health and Adult Social Care Services	
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PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S WHITE PAPER ON HEALTH

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Denise Radley, Director of Adult Social Services	Deadline date :
<p>Cabinet members are asked to agree that the City Council submit the attached response to the government's White Paper: "Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS" and its associated consultation documents.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 In July 2010 the coalition government published a White Paper on health services entitled "Equity & Excellence: Liberating the NHS" plus four supporting consultation documents. As well as setting out proposed changes to the NHS, the White Paper has significant implications for local authorities as well as implications locally given our partnership with NHS Peterborough.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 This reports presents to Cabinet, the proposed response form the City Council on this important White Paper.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/ Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As above, the government has published a White Paper on health services which also contains wide-reaching implications for local authorities.

5. PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The attached draft response to the White Paper consultations is presented to the Cabinet for approval.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Discussions have taken place at the City Council's Corporate Management Team and individual directors have taken part in discussions within their own networks and professional bodies e.g. Directors of Finance and Directors of Adult Social Services. A presentation on the White Paper was made to the health Scrutiny Commission on 13 September 2010 so that their views could be incorporated.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 Peterborough City council makes a clear response to the government on the proposals set out in the White Paper.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is important that the City Council makes its views on the proposed changes known as part of the consultation.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The City Council could choose not to submit a response to the consultation but it was felt the significance of the proposals was such that we should contribute our views.

10. IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Legal

The government will be publishing a response to the consultation followed by a health Bill later this year. Many of the proposed changes require new primary legislation to be enacted.

10.2 Finance

Given the current context of extreme tightening of public sector finance, the cost of implementing changes is a concern and has been flagged in our response. It will also be important to ensure that any services transferring into the City Council e.g. public health, are properly resourced. It is proposed that public health budgets will in future be ring-fenced.

10.3 Human Resources

Changes in relation to public health and adult social care will mean that staff would transfer to the City Council. Considerable work will be needed to plan and implement these changes.

10.4 Equalities

An impact assessment has been published alongside the White Paper and the City Council will need to ensure that equality and diversity issues are taken into account when any changes are implemented.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

The full White Paper and associated documents (as well as summaries) are available on the Department of Health website and copies have been placed in the members' lounge.