



CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 19th January 2023

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on the 18th January 2023 the following matters were discussed. The decisions of Cabinet are set out below each item along with reasons for the decision and other options considered.

Present: Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)

Councillors Cracknell, Furneaux, Harness, Shepherd, Shreeve and S Swinburn.

DN.80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received for this meeting.

DN.81 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made from Members with regard to items on the agenda for this meeting.

**DN.82 COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT OF
DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES AND SAFE
ACCOMMODATION IN NORTH-EAST LINCOLNSHIRE**

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities seeking approval to undertake a commissioning and procurement exercise for the delivery of Domestic Abuse Services in North East Lincolnshire.

RESOLVED -

- 1. That the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities be authorised to undertake a commissioning and procurement exercise for the delivery of Domestic Abuse Services in North East Lincolnshire.**

2. **That the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities be delegated the ability to make an award with a view to commencement of provision from 1st August 2023.**
3. **That the Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute all documentation arising.**

REASONS FOR DECISION – Whilst partnership working has remained strong, historically commissioning of domestic abuse provision has been undertaken within individual organisations and services and has not been joined up. With the addition of direct Government monies granted as part of the Safe Accommodation duties, in addition to bringing together wider Council and Partnership funding, there is a new opportunity to commission services in a holistic way against the needs and aspirations set out in the local strategy.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

1. Do nothing – this option would result in the Local Authority being non-compliant in meeting the Domestic Abuse Act and Safe Accommodation Duty. Additionally, some services would cease to be delivered, including access to the current accommodation-based support offer due to contract arrangements coming to the end of their legal tenure.
2. Separate commissioning across services – this option would duplicate commissioning and procurement workloads across the Council and stakeholders. Additionally, this approach would not provide the assurance that all services commissioned are based upon the identified needs in NEL, are duty compliant and support the delivery of local strategies and priorities.
3. Extend current arrangements - this option would result in the Council being non-compliant in meeting the Domestic Abuse Act and Safe Accommodation Duty. Additionally, some services may cease or reduce their capacity to be delivered in NEL, due to financial arrangements not being reviewed to reflect the local needs of delivery and market cost to deliver services.

DN.83 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE BUS NETWORK REVIEW

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport that seeks approval to realign £288,000 of Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Funding to secure four bus services and also sought approval to continue the delivery of the current Concessionary Fares scheme and to delegate approval to agree 2023/2024 Concessionary Fares Scheme reimbursement arrangements with bus operators

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport be authorised to realign £288,000 of Bus Service Improvement Plan Funding (BSIP) for the purposes set out in this report (Appendix B/ Option 2). The realignment of this external grant funding is subject to approval from the Department for Transport (DfT).**
- 2. That if the negotiations to utilise DfT BSIP funding do not conclude successfully, Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure , in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport be authorised to approve the Traffic Commissioner Proformas which will allow the bus operator to register changes (identified in Appendix A) to bus services from 1 April 2023 due to their uncommercial nature. There is not currently sufficient budget to subsidise these services. Therefore, it is not recommended the local authority subsidises these bus services from existing North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) budgets as this will create the risk of the local authority overspending on the overall available Transport budget in 2023/2024.**
- 3. That the Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport (subject to the acquiescence of the Section 151 Officer) be authorised to manage and make decisions on the 2023/2024 A1274 Transport budget (secure any bus services which are deemed socially necessary) and ensure decisions are made within the available budget.**
- 4. That the continuation of the current, statutory minimum North East Lincolnshire Council Concessionary Fares Scheme (with existing non-statutory local enhancements) from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 be approved.**
- 5. That the Director for Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport be authorised to approve 2023/2024 Concessionary Fares Scheme reimbursement arrangements with bus operators.**
- 6. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute all documents in connection with the above.**

REASONS FOR DECISION –. Under the Transport Act 1985, NELC has a duty to secure the provision of bus services it considers to be socially necessary. Therefore, the local authority is required to consider

the proposed changes to the commercial bus network from 1 April 2023.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Option 1 – Do nothing – This would leave some areas of the borough without access to a regular bus service (see appendix A and Appendix B). Options to mitigate the loss of services include recommending the Phone n Ride service which can operate semi fixed routes for larger groups of passengers. This option is not recommended.

Option 2 – Provide BSIP funding for the identified bus services from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025 (Appendix B/ Option 2) – This option would maintain the majority of the identified bus services from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2025 but will require approval from the DfT. This is the recommended option. The DfT allocated the council a £4,684,754 grant allocation for the BSIP. The grant covers £3,2m of capital and £1.4m of revenue funding and looks to improve the bus networks through 23 schemes which span the three-year duration of the BSIP scheme.

Option 3 - Provide funding for the identified bus services from 1 April 2023 from NELC budgets (Appendix A/ Option 1) – Whilst this option would maintain the identified bus services from 1 April 2023, this will create the risk of the local authority overspending on the overall available Transport budget in 2023/2024. This option is not recommended. It should be noted the costs identified in Appendix A/ option 1 are likely to be unaffordable for the BSIP programme.

Option 4 – Delegate authority to make decisions on A1274 Transport Budget to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport (subject to the acquiescence of the Section 151 Officer) – During 2023/2024, it is likely there will be further proposed changes to the bus network. In order to ensure the local authority can make timely decisions on the A1274 Transport budget and within the Traffic Commissioner timescales (28 day local authority consultation window), this option is also recommended.

DN.84 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be requested to leave on the grounds that discussion of the following business was likely to disclose exempt information within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

DN.85 NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE BUS NETWORK REVIEW

Cabinet considered the closed appendix referred to at item DN.83.

RESOLVED – That the appendix be noted.

