



CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Publication Date: 21st October 2021

At a special meeting of the Cabinet held on the 20th October 2021 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, Procter, Shepherd, Shreeve and S. Swinburn.

DN.70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence received from Councillor Lindley for this meeting.

DN.71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from any Councillor for this meeting.

DN.72 BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport summarising the Government's National Bus Strategy and presenting a new North East Lincolnshire Bus Service Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Bus Service Improvement Plan be approved for submission to the Department for Transport (DfT) by 29 October 2021.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director, Environment, Economy and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport, to:**

- a. **refer the re-prioritised Bus Service Improvement Plan to the Economy Scrutiny Panel for consideration prior to approval by the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources (in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport), should there be a reduced funding allocation awarded by the Department for Transport.**
 - b. **procure measures identified in the Bus Service Improvement Plan or re-prioritised Bus Service Improvement Plan.**
 - c. **award contract(s) for the measures within the allocated budget to the project and to carry out all activity to mobilise and fully implement.**
- 3. That the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to execute all documents in connection with the above.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - The Government have encouraged every Local Transport Authority (LTA), North East Lincolnshire Council is an LTA, and bus operator in England to be in a statutory Enhanced Bus Quality Partnership using existing powers in the Bus Services Act 2017. To implement Enhanced Bus Quality Partnerships, the Government require LTA's to submit Bus Service Improvement Plans to the Department for Transport (DfT) by the 29 October 2021.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED –

Option 1 - Continue with the existing Voluntary Bus Quality Partnership - The Government has encouraged local authorities to move to the Enhanced Partnership Model. If North East Lincolnshire Council do not move to the Enhanced Bus Quality Partnership model this has potential financial implications for the local authority as the DfT are suggesting they will no longer pay local authorities and bus operators COVID-19 Bus Service Support Grant, (CBSSG) and Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG). This option is not recommended.

Option 2 - Franchising – This option is not recommended. Franchising powers are only available automatically to Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) but can be provided to other LTA's through secondary legislation. LTAs which are not mayoral combined authorities and wish to pursue franchising will need to satisfy the Secretary of State that they have the capability and resources to do so. LTAs which wish to pursue franchising may do so but they should commit to implementing an Enhanced Bus Quality Partnership in the meantime until the franchising process, which can be lengthy, is complete.

Option 3 - Follow Government guidance towards creating a Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Bus Quality Partnership - This is the recommended option and this option would meet the Government aspirations and assist the Council in delivering improved bus services with key stakeholders.

DN.73 THE MOBILE HOMES (REQUIREMENT FOR MANAGER OF SITE TO BE FIT AND PROPER PERSON) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2020

Cabinet considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism seeking adoption of a new policy and fees in relation to The Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Fit and Proper Person Fees Policy and Determination Policy, to support the introduction of the Fit and Proper Person test in relation to Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020, be adopted.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Economic Development, Housing and Tourism to implement such policies.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - This is a new function of the Local Authority who can recover their costs only in accordance with an adopted fees policy. The approval of the fees and determination policy will support the performance of a new and important statutory function.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED - Another option would be to undertake the statutory functions at no cost. The Council would not receive a fee income to help offset the costs of service delivery.

DN.74 FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND

Cabinet considered a report from the Leader of the Council providing a further update of the wider project.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the current programme timeline and wider progress as outlined in the body of this report, be noted.**
- 2. That a further update on the scheme design from the Executive Director Environment, Economy and Resources be submitted to a future meeting of Cabinet and prior to a planning application being submitted.**
- 3. That the commitment to match funding the project together with the owners of Freshney Place, be reaffirmed.**

REASONS FOR DECISION - To update Cabinet on the current position of the project and reaffirm the Council's commitment to match funding for the project.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED – A joint venture vehicle was considered but not progressed for reasons relating to practical benefit to the scheme versus cost and time of setting up.

Not proceeding with the scheme would not achieve the Council's key strategic aims for the regeneration of the town centre, as described in the Local Plan and Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan (2020).