

## REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

### RESPONSE TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

#### Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of responses to the issues raised in petitions presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011.
  - A. Petition requesting widening of the service road on Ladybrook Lane, Mansfield.
  - B. Petition requesting off street parking on Westfield Lane, Mansfield.
  - C. Petition regarding the reduction in the Supporting People Grant in Mansfield.
  - D. Petition against the cuts to services and organisations which will affect social care in Mansfield.
  - E. Petition requesting a meeting to discuss options to deter the parking problems on Inglemere Close, Worksop

#### Information and Advice

**A. Petition requesting widening of the service road on Ladybrook Lane, Mansfield**

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

2. A petition of 10 names was presented to the County Council Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 by Councillor June Stendall requesting that a service road off Ladybrook Lane in Mansfield be widened to improve safety for children and also to prevent damage to vehicles and adjacent verges.
3. The service road is approximately four metres wide and as a result residents park their vehicles half on the adjacent verge in order so that traffic can pass. However, this causes damage to the verge and residents' wing mirrors have also been damaged by passing vehicles. Larger vehicles are also said to overrun the entry and exit points when turning in and out of the service road causing further damage to the verges.

4. It is claimed that vehicles use the service road to bypass a traffic calming feature on Ladybrook Lane. However, given that Ladybrook Lane has additional traffic calming features on both sides of the service road entry points, it is felt unlikely that large numbers of vehicles are using the service road for this purpose.
5. It is estimated that widening the service road would cost approximately £15,000 which could be funded from the Local Improvement Scheme if it has the support of the Local Member and is considered to provide the most cost-effective benefit to their community. Councillor June Stendall intends to submit the request to be considered for inclusion in the Local Improvement Scheme Programme for 2012/2013.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON  
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

**B. Petition requesting off street parking on Westfield Lane, Mansfield**

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

6. A petition of 15 names was presented to the County Council Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 by Councillor June Stendall. The petitioners requested that an area of verge fronting properties on Westfield Lane Mansfield be converted to parking.
7. Westfield Lane is traffic calmed, but still serves as a local distributor road. Residents complain of damaged wing mirrors, difficulty in parking and problems in crossing the verge to gain access to and from vehicles.
8. The properties in question are part of a complex of bungalows, are designated as homes for older people and have no off-street parking.
9. Two small lay-bys were introduced in 2008 but further lay-bys may involve moving telegraph poles, lighting columns and possibly utility cables in the verge.
10. The feasibility of constructing further lay-bys will be investigated and then discussed with Councillor Stendall prior to possible submission for funding as a Local Improvement Scheme if it provides a cost-effective benefit to the community.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON  
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

**C. Petition regarding the reduction in the Supporting People Grant in Mansfield**

Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

11. A petition of 233 signatories was presented to the County Council Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 by Councillor Chris Winterton objecting to the proposed reduction in the Supporting People Grant. The front page of the e-petition says:

*'We, the undersigned, object to the proposed drastic reduction in the Supporting People Grant which will affect all of those who use services such as: sheltered accommodation, wardens, help for homeless people, those subject to domestic*

*violence, help and support for those with mental health to stay out of hospital, drugs and alcohol services, people with learning and physical disabilities etc. Reducing the overall budget from £22.5m to possibly as low as £7.5m is going too far.'*

12. The 'Supporting People Grant' used to be paid to the County Council by Central Government in order for the Supporting People Partnership to commission and contract support services for vulnerable people. The grant was ring-fenced for this purpose and had been reducing over time since the programme commenced in 2003. In April 2009, the ring-fence for this funding was removed and since April 2010 it has not been a separately identified grant. The County Council, in considering how best to provide all services to the people of Nottinghamshire, has considered how best to use all of the resources available.
13. The County Council took additional time to work through the savings planned, listened to the feedback captured through two consultation exercises carried out and have been able to respond in a number of ways which are aimed at reducing the impact on vulnerable people:
  - a) In the main, key accommodation services, such as women's refuges and supported accommodation for homeless people, young people and teenage parents, have been retained with a sustainable level of funding.
  - b) Additional funds have been committed to slow down the pace of change, allowing providers to make the necessary adjustments in a more planned way. The Council is already encouraged to see that, as a result, many providers will be able to maintain existing service capacity after funding levels first reduce in November this year.
  - c) Some services, such as floating support services and services for people with mental health needs, will be tendered during 2012. In developing the specifications for these services the Council is mindful of the need to ensure that people have access to preventative services at times of need and more flexible commissioning approaches are being developed in order to get the best outcomes for vulnerable people from the more limited funds available.
  - d) Services for young people and women experiencing domestic violence will be commissioned in a more integrated way in future, working more closely with other departments within the County Council to achieve more streamlined commissioning and delivery of services. This should benefit those receiving and those delivering services.
14. In response to the first consultation exercise, which ended in January 2011, the Council responded with plans to ensure that the Supporting People budget was retained at the maximum possible level of £12.5m. The Council has been able to do this by both committing additional County Council funds and by attracting funding from Health.

COUNCILLOR KEVIN ROSTANCE  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health

**D. Petition against the cuts to services and organisations which will affect social care in Mansfield**

Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

15. A petition of 329 signatories was presented to the County Council Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 by Councillor Chris Winterton objecting to funding cuts from Nottinghamshire County Council. The front page of the petition says:
- ‘We, the undersigned, object to cuts to services and organisations which will affect social care in our community’.*
16. It is essential that the County Council makes savings due to a number of pressures on its budget. The Council has looked at all the services it provides before deciding where these savings need to be made. A relatively high proportion of the savings need to come from adult social care, as this makes up 44% of the Council's budget.
17. However, the Council is also planning to invest an extra £44.8 million in adult social care and £17.8m in children's social care over the next four years.
18. This investment will transform the way services are delivered and create greater choice and control for local people. The investment includes:
- the introduction of personal budgets to enable service users to have greater choice and control over their care
  - the creation of multi-purpose day service centres
  - the creation of alternatives to residential care such as increasing the use of assistive technology and a new night response service
  - increased investment in services to help disabled parents to that young carers have less caring responsibilities.
  - the strengthening of approaches to prevention and early intervention to enable people to live at home for longer.
19. All the above initiatives and funding are being delivered in Mansfield as well as other parts of the county.

COUNCILLOR KEVIN ROSTANCE  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health

**E. Petition requesting a meeting to discuss options to deter the parking problems on Inglemere Close, Worksop**

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

20. A petition of 32 signatures was presented to the Chairman at the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September by Councillor Alan Rhodes regarding parking problems on Inglemere Close, Worksop and requesting a meeting to discuss options to deter these problems.

21. As I'm sure the residents were aware the 'Residents Parking Only' signs needed to be removed because Inglemere Close did not have a Residents' Parking Scheme in place and the signs were not legal.
22. In recent months Bassetlaw Hospital have introduced parking charges to their car parks for staff and visitors. At no point did Bassetlaw Hospital discuss its proposals with Nottinghamshire County Council. This has obviously led to on street parking by people not wishing to pay the parking charges at the hospital.
23. I fully understand the concerns expressed and the parking problems are currently being investigated. Nottinghamshire County Councillor Alan Rhodes and myself are in discussions with Bassetlaw Hospital to resolve this matter and we are hopeful that this will be resolved without the need to consider introducing a Residents' Parking Scheme or a Waiting Restriction eg double yellow lines.
24. Any further information will be communicated as soon as I have it and in the meantime I would be happy to attend the site and discuss the issues.

COUNCILLOR RICHARD JACKSON  
Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

### **Reason for Recommendation**

25. To update members on the petitions presented to the last meeting of Council

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

26. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) It is RECOMMENDED that the contents and proposed actions be noted and that the petitioners are informed accordingly.

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sara Allmond, Governance Team**

### **Constitutional Comments (KK 19/10/11)**

27. The contents and proposed actions in this report are for noting and the Recommendation is within the remit of Council.

**Background Papers**

None

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All Mansfield Wards

Worksop North East and Carlton Ward