

**5 November 2013****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR  
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES****PETITION ON “TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION”****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Petition (245 signatures) to the County Council entitled “Save the Probation Service” (Appendix 1) and receive an update on the Transforming Rehabilitation process.

**Information and Advice**

2. The main changes that are at the heart of the “Transforming Rehabilitation” policy have been outlined in a previous report to Committee and can be summarised as follows:
  - resettlement prisons and through-the-gate focus
  - 21 contract package areas
  - emphasis on flexibility for re-offending providers
  - National Probation Service with local delivery units
  - No details on proportion of Payment by Results (PBR) or length of contracts
  - Procurement process to start Aug 2013.
3. Since the report that was considered by Committee in July 2013, the transformation process has progressed and it was felt appropriate to invite a senior manager from Probation to attend Committee to update Members and provide some essential background for a discussion around the petition, which was presented to Council on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
4. The County Council has also been presented with a petition of 245 signatures, which is critical of the planned abolition of Probation Trusts and their replacement with a national service for those deemed to be high risk of harm to the public, together with competitive tendering for local services to low and medium risk offenders. Signatories to the petition state that:

“We reject the Government’s plan to abolish Nottinghamshire Probation Trust along with the other 34 public sector Probation Trusts replacing them with one Probation service that will only supervise those deemed to be high risk of harm to the public. It is envisaged under the current Government proposals that 70% of Probation’s work will be subject to a competitive process which excludes the

Probation Service and could lead to those convicted of serious violent and sexual offences being supervised by private companies like G4S and Serco”

5. The petition further states that the “fragmentation of the Probation Service is reckless and... could leave the public at increased risk of harm” and calls upon the elected representatives of the County Council to oppose the plan and send a message to Government that public safety should come before private profit.
6. Following the presentation, the Committee’s discussions on the petition can then be forwarded to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board for further consideration and can also be subject of a letter from the Chairman to the Ministry of Justice.

## **Other Options Considered**

7. This report is based on the options/views contained within the petition

## **Reasons/s for Recommendations**

8. It is crucial that the Ministry of Justice receive as many and as wide a selection of opinions to the proposed changes to the Probation Service

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

Crime and disorder implications are made clear in the body of the report.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

- i) The petition is considered by the Committee
- ii) The Chairman of the Committee presents the summary of the Committee discussions to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board in December 2013 for further consideration and to seek the views of the partners represented there.
- iii) A letter based on the discussions of Committee be sent to the Ministry of Justice.

**Martin Done, Service Director Communications and Marketing**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Chris Walker, Temporary Group Manager, Safer and Engaged Communities, x 72460**

### **Constitutional Comments**

10. The Community Safety Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution for community safety matters and may approve the recommendations in the report

### **Financial Comments (SEM 23/10/13)**

11. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

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

- All

Appendix 1

# Memo



From: Karen Townrow  
Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

To: Corporate Director ...

Cc: Relevant Committee Chairman

Date: 30 September 2013

## **COUNTY COUNCIL PETITIONS – 26/09/2013**

The following petitions were presented to the Chairman and to the above meeting:

- (1) Save the Pobabation Service presented by Councillor Liz Plant (Ref:2013/038) Petition referred to Community Safety and forwarded to Corporate Director Policy, Planning & Corporate Services to be actioned

I am referring these petitions to you for consideration. Please contact me as soon as possible if you feel that there is a more appropriate Member or Officer to deal with a petition that has been sent to you.

Please find enclosed guidance on dealing with petitions under the Committee System.

**Karen Townrow**  
**Assistant Democratic Services Officer**  
For more information please contact me on 0115 977 3035

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Chris Walker

## **SAVE THE PROBATION SERVICE**

### **PETITION TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

We the undersigned believe that those who are convicted by a Criminal Court should be supervised by those employed by a publicly accountable Probation Service such as Nottinghamshire Probation Trust.

We reject the Government's plan to abolish Nottinghamshire Probation Trust along with the other 34 public sector Probation Trusts replacing them with one Probation service that will only supervise those deemed to be high risk of harm to the public. It is envisaged under the current Government proposals that 70% of Probation's work will be subject to a competitive process which excludes the Probation Service and could lead to those convicted of serious violent and sexual offences being supervised by private companies like G4S and Serco.

We believe that the fragmentation of the probation Service is reckless and completely unjustified, and it could leave us, the public, at increased risk of harm.

We call upon our elected representatives at Nottinghamshire County Council to oppose this plan and, in so doing, send a clear message to the Government that public safety should come before private profit.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Peter Nair	10 Salway Close, Melton Mowby	Peter Nair
Joe Fothergill	30, Mellicant - Rd - W.B.	Joe Fothergill
Martin MacGill	46 Adbolton Grove W.B.	Martin MacGill

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