

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, Councillor Ken Ellcome, at his meeting held on Thursday, 21 January 2016 at 5.00 pm in the The Executive Meeting Room - Third Floor, The Guildhall

Present

Councillor Ken Ellcome

Councillor Lynne Stagg
Councillor Stuart Potter
Councillor Yahiya Chowdhury

1. Apologies (AI 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

3. East Cosham Road and Gunwharf Road proposals (TRO 77/2015) (AI 3)

The Director of Transport, Environment & Business Support reported that the report was in response to residents' concerns in East Cosham and to make the pay and display more consistent within the area in Gunwharf. Councillor Ellcome was aware of the effect of the construction of the retirement development in East Cosham and noted that the majority of representations were in favour of the proposals and he wished to point out that the road had not been restricted in width. With regard to the Gunwharf Road element he had received a detailed written deputation from the Friends of Old Portsmouth traffic committee via Mr Dobson whose views he had read and these were circulated to the opposition spokespeople. These were comments rather than objections or support to the proposals. He had also heard from Viviers fish market but this was the only objection that he was aware of.

DECISIONS:

(1) East Cosham Road:

- that the double yellow lines on the east side are implemented
- that the 11-metre length of double yellow lines on the west side outside no.25 are implemented
- that the first 40m of the double yellow lines proposed on the west side (northwards from Havant Road) are implemented adjacent to No.91 Havant Road - but that installation of the remainder is delayed to enable further assessment.

- (2) **Gunwharf Road: That the 3-hour limited waiting restriction is changed to Pay & Display as proposed (to ensure consistency in the location).**

4. Palmerston Road South Area Review (AI 4)

Councillor Ellcome wished to defer consideration of this item until the next meeting to ensure that all those had made representations were able to attend. This would therefore go forward to his 18 February decision meeting.

5. Retendering the bus routes (New Contracts from 27 March 2016) (AI 5)

The Director of Transport, Environment & Business Support presented this report which was in response to budget pressures and the effect of supporting the concessionary fares scheme which had meant there was a need for a comprehensive review and retendering of the bus services. It was noted that this would not be subject to call-in due to the timescale for the routes to be let and this had been agreed with the chair of the Scrutiny Management Panel.

The retendering had brought forward changes by the bus services. Some of the services would run commercially which was welcome. There was consideration being given to the most appropriate routes to continue via tender. Regrettably some routes would no longer be provided with a bus service, as detailed in the appendix B.

A deputation was made by Councillor Lee Hunt voicing his opposition to the reduction of subsidised bus services though he was glad that the concessionary fares were continuing and that there was some opportunity for commercial routes to be run. He was concerned that at a time when people were being encouraged to use other forms of transport than their cars, bus services were being reduced. His solution would be for reinstatement of the residents' parking scheme which had brought in funding in MB and MC zones to help with these alternative modes of transport.

Councillor Darren Sanders then made a deputation stating that to cut congestion people should have the opportunity to use the bus routes and he was concerned that in north Milton there were a lot of elderly and vulnerable who would be affected by the proposed changes to the buses especially with the No 19, 13 and 14 in Baffins ward which was adversely affected. He had met with the director of First Bus with Councillor Stagg to try and help mitigate the situation.

In response Councillor Ellcome reported that he had also met with the director of First Bus. The No 13 and 14 were not being cut but there were changes to this route. He also pointed out that £4.5 million was paid regarding concessionary fares which was a national scheme so there could not be cuts there and he was concerned himself regarding the No 19 route and he acknowledged the help of Dial a Ride in aiding vulnerable people.

Councillor Stagg voiced concerns regarding the re-routing of the No 13 and 14 and felt a lot of elderly people would need to walk a long way to access the

continuing services. It was reported by officers that the longest walks to routes were at Port Solent, but the X4 route is used there. Councillor Chowdhury raised the issue of the connectivity to Portsmouth College for students and it was noted that this would still be served by the rotating 13/14 route.

Councillor Ellcome wished to support the recommendations with the exception of the No 19 and No 19A which he wished to retain with funding needing to be covered within his portfolio's finances.

At the end of the meeting Alan Cufley and Councillor Ellcome placed on record their thanks to Danny Johnson for his work to the city council over many years and his help and support to the cabinet members with his extensive knowledge of the bus routes and operations in the city.

DECISIONS:

The Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation:

- 1. Noted the current financial pressure as a result of the concessionary reimbursement;**
- 2. Gave approval for the award of contracts for supported bus services to operate for 3 years from Sunday 27 March 2016 in accordance with Appendix A.**
- 3. Acknowledged that the bus services outlined in Appendix B contain a list of tendered services and that some of those services will be run commercially (at no cost to the council) and the remainder are the tendered bus routes that are the least value for money. Therefore it is recommended that they are no longer financially supported; with the exception of the 19/19A service which will be retained.**
- 4. The Director of Transport, Environment and Business Support was given delegated authority to remove bus stop infrastructure from redundant routes as appropriate;**
- 5. The Director of Transport, Environment and Business Support was given delegated authority to make any necessary adjustments in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation for any variations to the contract award within procurement rules and overall approved budget for the Traffic and Transportation Portfolio.**

N.B. This decision was not subject to call-in due to the timing implications this would have on securing bus routes in the city, as agreed by the Chair of Scrutiny Management Panel and in consultation with the Monitoring Officer.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

Councillor Ken Elcome
Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation