

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 26 October 2021 at 12 noon at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Suzy Horton
Dave Ashmore
Kimberly Barrett
Ben Dowling
Jason Fazackarley
Hugh Mason
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg

84. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Attwell.

85. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

86. Record of Previous Decision Meeting held on 5 October 2021 (AI 3)

The record of decisions from the previous Cabinet meeting held on 5 October 2021 was approved as a correct record. Councillor Vernon-Jackson read out the decisions so that there would be a record of them as the audio recording of the previous meeting was unavailable.

87. Impact of Government Legislation on Covid-19 Vaccination Requirements in Care Homes and the Adult Social Care Approach (AI 4)

Andy Biddle, Director of Adult Care, introduced the report and noted that as of 19 October there was only one member of staff directly employed in a PCC care home who has declined to be vaccinated; they have now been redeployed. Vaccination requirements will be incorporated into new contracts. Consultation is currently underway for staff on existing contracts. Staff who visit care homes as part of their roles have been reviewed on a case by case basis and three employees are affected; they have now been redeployed. The extensive processes involved Legal Services and HR.

Members acknowledged that although there are various reasons why people decline to be vaccinated it was positive that there have been no job losses. They also noted the success of the Discharge To Assess unit at Harry Sotnick House in breaking the cycle of infection.

In response to questions, Mr Biddle said that locally there has been an agreement that NHS staff who visit care homes are double-vaccinated. There is consultation at national level about extending the requirement for Covid double-vaccination, and to include flu vaccination, to all NHS staff; officers are likely to hear in the next two or three weeks if a similar decision is to be made. Members agreed there should be a level playing field.

The Cabinet noted the report.

88. Oakdene House and Locksway Road Flats (AI 5)

Andy Biddle, Director of Adult Care, introduced the report.

Councillor Fazackarley, the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care, agreed Oakdene House and Locksway Road Flats were good examples of co-production between the council and the NHS. He noted the excellent working arrangements between the council, NHS and other organisations.

In response to questions as to whether there was enough accommodation of this type in view of changing mental health treatment, Mr Biddle said that at the moment there was. It was designed to be "future-proofed" as those Portsmouth residents who use the accommodation plan to move on to more independent living; however, the full extent of the "long tail" of Covid is unknown but more support is going to be needed to help people with their mental health; some may need considerable support. The situation will be kept under review.

Members welcomed the development as it is good to continue to use the St James site and surrounding area to support mental health. Moving out of long-term care to more independent living is beneficial for people's recovery as well as costing the council less.

The Cabinet noted the report.

89. Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision

Resolved that under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985, the press and public be excluded for the consideration of Bus Service Improvement Plan - National Bus Strategy - appendices H and N as these contain information defined as exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972.

90. Bus Service Improvement Plan - National Bus Strategy (AI 6)

Peter Shelley, Transport Development Manager, introduced the report, noting that the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) is a "living document" and will be updated annually.

Councillor Lynne Stagg, Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation, explained the BSIP was part of the wider picture of the need for cleaner air and reduction in the number of cars; there are currently about 43,000 car movements daily into Portsmouth. Good alternative transport is needed that caters for more areas of the city and needs of people such as shift workers. Although there are cheaper fares awareness of them is low. A 60-minute hopper ticket is proposed. Funding from South East Hampshire Rapid Transit

is being used to improve bus lanes; journey times from Leigh Park to Portsmouth could be reduced by 11 minutes. However, people must use buses or the initiatives will not work.

Members agreed it was good to encourage people, especially those on low incomes, to use buses. The BSIP is an important first step. Members have raised with bus companies the lack of bus stops in some areas, the need to improve access to poorly served areas like Ocean Park and boosting the 13 and 14 services.

DECISIONS

Cabinet

- 1. Approved the Portsmouth Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), for submission to the Department for Transport by 31 October 2021;**
- 2. Delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and the Section 151 Officer to agree any minor amendments to the Bus Service Improvement Plan that may be required to take account of future funding changes and policy announcements;**
- 3. Noted that the Bus Service Improvement Plan will be monitored through the Enhanced Partnership Executive Board.**

The meeting concluded at 12:35 pm

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council