

Report of:	Corporate Director
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Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Cabinet: 17/07/14

CABINET
17 JULY 2014
REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF BUS SHELTERS IN THE DISTRICT

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider issues regarding removal and replacement of bus shelters which are the responsibility of Cannock Chase Council.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the list of bus shelter improvements identified in Appendix 1 from the General Fund Reserve for bus shelters in 2014/15.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approve permission to spend the capital funds of £24,000 and authorise officers to take all appropriate actions to implement these decisions.
- 2.3 That Cabinet approve the use of underspends from the Town Centre Improvement Fund allocations to meet the cost of £5,600 to rectify safety issues with the surface of Cannock bus station.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Cabinet on 16 October 2008 previously determined policy on the maintenance of bus shelters which are the responsibility of Cannock Chase Council.
- 3.2 The Cabinet minute from this meeting confirms that “the 18 Council owned bus shelters at the bus stations in Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley be maintained; that the remaining Council owned bus shelters across the District be no longer repaired or maintained and be removed without replacement if they present a health and safety hazard to the public”.
- 3.3 Maintenance budgets were adjusted accordingly based on this policy decision.

- 3.4 The current position is that some improvements have been made to certain bus shelters in the District as a result of specific funding but that there are a number of other bus shelters that are now posing safety issues due to a lack of maintenance in the past 5.5 years and this needs to be addressed.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:

Bus shelters are one element of the public transport system for the District but they do not link directly to the Council's corporate priorities. However, the Council has duties arising from health and safety legislation that need to be fulfilled and this report is intended to secure the necessary policy decisions.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 As part of the savings options for the 2008/9 Budget, Council determined that budgets for the maintenance of the 81 bus shelters that were the responsibility of the District Council at that time should be removed subject to a more detailed report to Cabinet. Officers were asked to explore other options for bus shelter maintenance as part of the Cabinet report.
- 5.2 The Council wrote to all Parish and Town Councils in the District inviting them to take responsibility for the management of bus shelters in their area. Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council was the only Parish Council to confirm their agreement to accept the transfer of 7 bus shelters in their area. Following this the Council published an OJEU notice during 2008 testing whether any commercial organisations would take responsibility for bus shelter maintenance in return for advertising rights; this generated no tenders.
- 5.3 The budget of £2,500 for maintaining 18 bus shelters at the District's three bus stations in Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley was protected. Outside of these bus shelters and in the absence of commercial interest, the policy since July 2008 is that all other bus shelters have not been maintained and that where health and safety issues arise, bus shelters would need to be removed.
- 5.4 Since 2008, a number of developments have occurred. The bus station at Hednesford has been demolished as part of the town centre regeneration to be replaced by bus laybys. Norton Canes Parish Council accepted responsibility for all bus shelters in their area in 2010. During 2012/13 financial year, approximately £50,000 investment was made into Cannock and Rugeley bus stations from the Town Centre Improvement Fund. This included the installation of a new bus shelter, civil works and re-lining to ensure that pedestrian walkways were marked clearly. These works were the result of a safety audit carried out following a coroner's Rule 43 report into a fatality at Cannock bus station involving a tourist bus.

- 5.5 The Town Centre Improvement Fund approved by Cabinet has also funded some bus shelter replacements. Two bus shelters at Stafford Road, Cannock and Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes were replaced in March 2014 as part of the for 2013/14. Two further bus shelter replacements are planned at Cannock Road, Blackfords and Pye Green Road (outside stadium site) and will be replaced this financial year from the £10,000 specifically allocated to Chadsmoor as part of the Town Centre Improvement Fund. Two bus shelters near Bridgetown Primary School have been part of a partnership arts and citizenship project between the school, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire youth services and this Council which has resulted in removal of graffiti and improved physical appearance for the shelters.
- 5.6 However, a number of the remaining bus shelters in the District that have not been maintained for nearly 6 years are now a concern from a safety perspective. Many have been subject to vandalism over many years. There is £24,000 reserve allocated for bus shelters in this 2014/15 financial year and it is recommended that this is used to remove other bus shelters but provide a replacement as well as repair to a small number of bus shelters. The recommended programme to spend these funds is set out at Appendix 1.
- 5.7 In addition to the improvements set out in Appendix 1, there is a further specific safety issue at Cannock Bus station where buses have made significant depressions in the tarmac surface and this has been assessed as a hazard for the public in terms of trips and falls. To prevent this from happening in the future, bus companies will be asked that where buses are waiting in the station for any length of time, they must switch off their engines. However, there is a need to address the depressions that currently exist and a quote for £5,600 has been obtained. The total budget for maintenance of Cannock and Rugeley bus stations is £2,500 per annum and this is not adequate to address this issue. It is therefore requested that identified underspends from the Town Centre Improvement Fund allocations can be used to address this as soon as possible.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

There is an ongoing revenue budget of £2,500 within existing resources available for the maintenance of all District owned Bus Shelters.

There is also a Reserve (MF49) of £24,000 set aside for the removal of existing Bus Shelters.

The Town Centre Improvement Fund has a budget of £169,550 in the Capital Programme for 2014/15 and there is a further £41,950 unspent from the budget approved for 2013/14. The Improvement Fund is currently fully allocated to specific projects and therefore a reallocation of resources is required to meet the current request.

6.2 Legal

Under the Occupiers liability Act 1957, all land/building owners have a duty to take reasonable care in ensuring that users of its premises are reasonably safe in using those premises.

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Section 17 (Crime Prevention)

The removal of certain bus shelters will reduce the possibility of ASB related behaviour.

6.5 Human Rights Act

None

6.6 Data Protection

None

6.7 Risk Management

There are growing health and safety issues with a number of bus shelters in the District that need to be pro-actively addressed.

6.8 Equality & Diversity

None

6.9 Best Value

The recommended programme set out in Appendix 1 is considered to offer the best combination of value for money and improved safety.

7 Appendices to the Report		
Appendix 1	List of bus shelters improvements – 2014/15	
Previous Consideration		
• 2008/9 Budget	Council	27 February 2008
• Bus Shelters	Cabinet	17 July 2008
• Bus Shelters	Cabinet	16 October 2008

Bus Shelter Replacement Programme 2014
(from £24,000 General Fund Reserve)

Location	Cost
Green Lane Rugeley adjacent to playing fields – replace existing shelter	£3,600.00
Sandy Lane Rugeley o/s Churchfields school – replace existing shelter	£3,600.00
Pye Green Road nr jct Broadhurst Green – replace existing shelter	£3,600.00
Walsall Road Cannock adjacent to Ex-Servicemen’s Club – remove old shelter replace at new bus stop	£3,600.00
Walsall Road Cannock o/s Kwik Fit Tyre Depot – replace existing shelter	£3,600.00
Walsall Road Bridgtown o/s College – replace existing shelter	£3,600.00
Ironstone Road Cannock Wood – repair shelter Broadhurst Green Hednesford – repair shelter Other ad-hoc shelter repairs	£2,400.00
Total	£24,000.00

FOR INFORMATION

Bus Shelter Replacements funded by existing Town Centre Improvement Funds:

- Stafford Road (junction with Cemetery Road) – completed
- Hednesford Road, Heath Hayes – completed
- Pye Green Road (outside stadium) – during 2014/15
- Cannock Road, Blackfords – during 2014/15