

Older People Talking Together 15.11.10

Procurement	Could the catering functions at Council run buildings be out sourced?
Management & Departmental Restructuring	Chief Executives Salary of £180,000 per annum, what responsibilities and function's to be paid this type of money? Are the staff cuts from the lower scale jobs or higher paid jobs?
Library Service	Is the mobile library going to be cut? Reducing hours it was open would be preferable to losing services. Losing the mobile library in rural areas is disadvantaging the villages again. How many people use the mobile library in different places, could it be reduced where it is not used enough?
Library Service	Can the grant for new purchases be reduced? This would surely save money? Library IT and courses seems to be very well attended and used. Cutting Cockerton library would have an impact on the village as people go there when they shop. It would be a shame to close it but there are good services to town library. Are there other options to opening the library – volunteers manning certain times etc?
Library Service	It is assuming Cockerton will close, this is not good and this would be a huge detriment to the community.
Library Service	It was stated that although the clients k now where the library is etc ,they choose not to use it at the moment
Library Service	Libraries need to stay to help the vulnerable especially if services are cut people will be looking to libraries for help much more.
Library Service	Library Service very important not only for the use of books but the other events that go on there.
Library Service	Review of library services. There will be an impact on older people if Housebound Services, Mobile Service and Residential Services are cut. These services all provide a chance for someone who doesn't get out very often or see other people to have a chat etc. It may be only contact they get all week. Library service seen as haven for the older people in town, especially in winter. They can get free access to papers, internet etc. Some people use library as chance to meet other people socially. Its one of the only free access points in town where an elderly person can stay all day if they want. If library services were cut it may mean IT services disappeared. IT courses would be affected and these are very popular with older people. Library is used for lots of different activities like, reading groups, social groups and family groups. If they were to go it could have impact on older people as may feel isolated and lonely which then may effect their health and well being.
Anti-Social Behaviour	Early intervention saves money elsewhere in the long run. Why are we not looking ahead? £110,000 is the saving, but out of what budget? Is it proportionate to what is being saved?
Supporting People Efficiencies	Housing benefits – is this part of the cuts as well? Does this affect the Supporting People budget?

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Supported Bus Services	What is going to happen to the bus services? Does it mean fewer buses on routes, and are complete routes going to disappear? Most passengers who use services are pensioners so the reduction will have a big impact on them. The reduction will have a big impact on non-car users. Pensioners won't be able to afford taxis therefore will chose to stay at home which will have an impact on social life and increase feeling of loneliness. E.g. Gentleman from Harrowgate Hill – Doctor moved to Cockerton so now he has 2 buses to catch if appointment before 9.30am, or bus has been removed will have to get taxi instead. Reduction may impact on willingness to travel to Doctors or hospital this will have impact on peoples health.
Supported Bus Services	Transport is the least of the Council's worries. What is being subsidised travel wise now? How is it decided which subsidies are being removed?
Supported Bus Services	Lack of buses in rural area will be an issue, people will be marooned, therefore it will cost money to get anywhere which is disadvantaging them.
Supported Bus Services	The Hospital routes should be very accessible and if these are subsidised they should be kept on as it is important for people to get to appointments etc. It should be a priority.
Supported Bus Services	Some older people wouldn't mind paying for a bus pass if you got more for your money.
Supported Bus Services	The change of use of the bus pass to 9:30am has had an affect on the ability to get early appointments at doctors, hospital etc could it be changed to 9:00am? Shuttle Bus service has it been stopped and if not has it a future? Effect of a reduced bus service especially on the villages? Is there going to be Bus Passes in the future?
Supported Bus Services	Can the grant money for the cycling scheme be used for any other transport issues?
Supported Bus Services	Mobility services closing will be a big issue for those that cant get around easily. Senior council officers should travel to work on the bus every day for a month and see how convenient they find it for themselves.
Supported Bus Services	Public transport does not directly affect people who claim a mobility element of Disability living Allowance, but services should also be looking at how they can provide transport and looking at other options.
Car Parking	Could residents not pay post 6pm for parking - £1 would be sufficient for most people. People could pay on Sundays too.
Strategic Funding Review of the Third Sector	Concern over the reduction of voluntary sector funding as feeling that their will be more need for their services.
Cultural Services Leisure Facilities	Can't afford to use facilities at the Dolphin Centre. Organisations can't hire out rooms because they are too expensive. Head of Steam – can't afford it. Rather get bus to Shildon where it is free. Head of Steam is losing out because of charges.

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Cultural Services Arts Centre	Groups of people with learning Disabilities use the Arts centre for day activities and other services and will suffer if it closes. This will impact on their personal choice. What will happen to people who live out of the Borough who come to the arts centre?
Cultural Services Civic Theatre / Arts Centre	Could we increase Council Tax by even a few pence to help to save them or is Council Tax capped? Could the Civic be sold and the money gained / saved be used to keep the Arts Centre open. Reason being that the Arts Centre is used to provide more function's to the public. Reduce the number of ticket sale outlets for the theatre, is there a need for the one in the Cornmill?
Cultural Services Tourist Information Centre	Concern over the proposal to have an unmanned T.I.C. the feeling was that visitors to the town would prefer to be able to speak to someone rather than just pick up a leaflet. The ability to book bus travel will be a loss. Could the T.I.C. function be provided at the Library?
Cultural Services Works of Art	Could some works of art be sold?
Cultural Services Exercise on Prescription	Exercise on prescription for example is a great preventative measure - are we looking forward enough – are the savings being made elsewhere, can these not be realised through better partnership working?
Street Scene	Can someone from Street Scene management attend resident meeting to explain how the proposed reduction in service delivery could affect their area, Skerne Park? Concern that a reduction in services could have an affect on the safety of some of the streets where the elderly have to use.
Adult Social Care	Intervention at the lowest end of care means increased quality of life and slows down the need for further intervention later on. Be careful cutting at this end when the costs will be felt further down the line. Keeping people in their own homes but without support or transport can mean isolation and loneliness, this is a huge issue and needs to be addressed not made worse.
Adult Social Care	Befriending services needs to be in place to address the cuts in services. A lot of people are not motivated and wont get out and find things, it has to be given to them. Centralised information needs to be circulated of what is on offer to residents. A centralised list of those that need support would be useful too. Making sure the information is in the right places so that you don't have to go out of your way to find things. It needs to reach people before they need support so they know where to get it from.
Adult Social Care	Use GP's surgeries and post office to advertise information. Or places where the over 65's attend regularly, such as for flu jabs. Information needs to be clear and concise, but informative. Churches should be used to share information to its older people. More talks to groups would help get the information out.
Adult Social Care	Involving the voluntary sector is essential as they come into contact with lots more people. The people sharing their views today are not typical residents – we are motivated and concerned, most people are not and it is important to get their views as well.

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<p>Adult Social Care How ease negative impact</p>	<p>Could services become more joined up? Care Worker could have number of roles. Person delivering shopping could also deliver housing benefit pack etc instead of another worker having to arrange a visit to do this. The Care Worker could also identify any repairs that needed carrying out.</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>Why not spread the cost of the savings over the 4 years? Why are we doing most of it in the first year?</p>
<p>General How could the council save money?</p>	<p>Do we need people coming into work at 7am in the morning? Do all staff need to be employed for 37 hours per week? Use of buildings – start thinking about utilising and doubling up the use of buildings. School buildings and facilities could be used more effectively.</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>Will the consultation make any difference?</p>
<p>Taxi Voucher Removal of Dial-a-Ride /Taxi Vouchers</p>	<p>When services are removed what are the older people and disabled going to do? How will they travel to day care centres, shopping, Doctors etc. How are they going to be transported? For some the weekly trip to the day care centre is the only day they get out of house. If service is removed means will be stuck at home 7 days a week. This will mean they become increasingly lonely and isolated. What will be the impact on day care centres if Dial-a-Ride /Taxi Vouchers are removed? Will day care centres be able to survive if there is a drop in the number of people who go? Removal of Dial-a-Ride will have a big impact on older people and disabled having to go to hospital. Reason people use Dial-a-Ride to get to hospital is because there is an insufficient number of NHS Patient Service Buses. Therefore if this goes NHS Patient Service won't be able to deal with increase in demand what are people to do? Elderly use Dial-a-Ride to get to social events, if this service is lost this will affect people's social lives. Removal of taxi vouchers – disabled will have to pay for taxis. People who use wheelchairs need special taxis so this will make it difficult for them to get out and about. Removal of Dial-a-Ride and Taxi Vouchers will have impact on independence of older people and disabled who use them. If their independence goes this will have impact on those people who help care for them. The Council should start a campaign asking for volunteer drivers to help those affected by cuts. This should start immediately.</p>
<p>General Taxi Vouchers</p>	<p>The removal of taxi vouchers will isolate already vulnerable and immobile people. They can't use the bus, so need the cars to pick them up, their income is low so it is too expensive to get a taxi. Opportunities to get out are being denied to them.</p>