



# Bristol Scrutiny 2017/18

## Scoping of Scrutiny Topics

Title

Libraries

### 1.Reasons for Undertaking this Work

Main reasons for undertaking the piece of work (and any Background information if relevant)

In June 2017 a public consultation commenced on budget saving proposals that put forward three options to reduce the number of council run libraries across the city. The savings target is £1.4m.

The consultation has attracted significant public and media attention. It ends on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The Cabinet decision will be made on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Scrutiny members have expressed concern about the impact of these proposals, and the rationale behind them. Members wish to further explore other models of delivery prior to formulation of the Cabinet proposals, and to influence and have oversight of the implementation of the agreed option post-Cabinet.

Departmental officers are in the process of applying for government funding to explore a range of different models. If the bid is successful the Council will be able to utilise the expertise of consultants in alternative delivery models, such as the Devon "Libraries Unlimited" model.

Key question that you are seeking to answer

Are there alternative delivery models that would enable more Libraries to remain open than those outlined in the consultation document, and how could these models be made feasible in Bristol?

Main objectives/main areas of investigation

Two main phases of potential work:

Phase 1 (*as part of the process to achieve the level of savings required*)

- scrutinise consultation findings,
- scope alternative options for service delivery (this would need to be done over the period September-October 2017 in order to be able to

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|  | <p>accompany proposals to Cabinet)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scrutinise Cabinet proposals as they go forward</li> <li>• consultants to attend as expert witnesses on alternative delivery models (subject to success of funding bid)</li> </ul> <p>Phase 2 (<i>post Cabinet decision on 9/1/2018</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scrutiny involvement in shaping the landscape and influencing implementation of the Cabinet decision</li> <li>• scrutiny input into decisions re: surplus land, buildings, asset transfer issues, use of capital</li> <li>• exploring options for the remaining libraries estate and alternative models of delivery</li> </ul> |
| Draft Terms of Reference and possible outcomes | TBC  |

## 2.Member Involvement

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| Members involved                                  | (Initial steering group) Cllrs, Negus, Bolton, Gollop, Massey |
| Key Executive Member                              | Cllr Asher Craig  |
| Other Executive Member Portfolios covered, if any |   |

## 3.Officer Support

|                             |                                |
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| Lead Directorate Officer(s) | Kate Murray, Head of Libraries |
| Policy Advisor              | Romayne de Fonseca             |

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List of possible internal and external witnesses/contributors and key information required

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| Departmental officers<br>External consultants |
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**Time Frame**

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|  | Suggested methodology for both Phases 1 and 2 is task and finish group (non-public meetings).   |
| <b>Phase 1</b><br>1 <sup>st</sup> meeting<br>(September) | To examine information to be provided by departmental officers which will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analysis of all existing service costs</li><li>• The options appraisal</li><li>• Assessment of what level of service is required to meet the statutory requirement for a library service</li><li>• Rationale underpinning the proposed options and weighting criteria</li><li>• Interactive spreadsheet for modelling costs of different options</li></ul> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting                                  | External consultants to attend as expert witnesses on alternative delivery models   |
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| <b>Phase 2</b>   | To commence January 2018  |
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Decision-making/path for recommendations:

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| TBC |
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**Costs**

Specific costs identified

None at present

Date: .....

