

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

1st November 2017



Report of: Libraries Task and Finish Group

Title: Conclusions of the Libraries Task and Finish Group

Ward: Citywide

Member Presenting Report: Councillor Anthony Negus

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Recommendation

That the members of OSMB formally adopt the attached report and recommendations from the Libraries Task and Finish Group.

Summary

The Libraries Task and Finish Group was formally set up by OSMB on the 25th July 2017. It has full cross party representation and met on the following occasions:

- ☐ Monday 11th September – meeting
- ☐ Friday 6th October – meeting (a.m.)
- ☐ Friday 6th October – facilitated workshop (p.m.)

The key question that the Group sought to address was:

“Are there alternative options or delivery models that would enable better outcomes for the library service than those outlined in the public consultation document, and how could these models be made feasible in Bristol?”

If OSMB agrees to formally adopt this report it will be submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 5th December, to be on the same agenda as the report containing proposals for the Library Service. It will be under the standing item “Reports from Scrutiny” and a formal written response from the Executive will be requested.

Consultation

The Task and Finish Group has conducted its work in the context of the current situation, where the Library Service in Bristol is facing significant budget reductions, and where a public consultation has been undertaken seeking views on the potential closure of 17 branch libraries as well as other community services.

This draft report was sent to all Bristol Councillors for information on the 16th October.

Risk Assessment

Not applicable at this stage

Public Sector Equality Duties

Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

None at this stage

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

None

Financial

Recommendations are contained within the report

Land

Not applicable.

Personnel

Not applicable.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Libraries Task & Finish Group report

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None.

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