

Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 1st November 2017

Extract minute for Agenda Item 8

8. Libraries Task and Finish Group Report

The report was introduced by Councillor Negus, Chair of the Libraries Task and Finish Group, and Members went on to consider the recommendations and next steps. The following matters were discussed;

- The Task and Finish Group accepted that reductions to the budgets for the library service has been agreed but believed there were alternative options that would minimise the number of closures that should be considered by the Cabinet (but it was unlikely that all 17 threatened libraries would be saved). Members did agree that in some communities libraries were so underutilised that they regretfully could not continue to be supported at a time of significant financial pressures.
- The findings of the report were unanimously supported by the Board, but concerns were raised by a Member regarding the viability of implementing mutuals/trusts etc. due to the Council's diminishing resources and if the plans set out in the report were progressed but failed, the library service could be left in a worse position.
- The Cabinet Member for Communities, Events and Equalities confirmed that she welcomed the report and would provide a written reply to the recommendations in advance of the Cabinet meeting on 4th December 2017.
- The Board asked that a vote of thanks be recorded to all of the Members and officers who worked on the Libraries Task and Finish Group, noting that a high quality report had been produced within a very short timescale.

RESOLVED;

That the report be endorsed and submitted to Cabinet for consideration at the meeting on 4th December 17, alongside an extract minute setting out the accompanying comments.