

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****11 MAY 2011****MOTION - "CLOSURE OF LIBRARIES"****1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report asks the Committee to:-

- (a) note the information in this report.
- (b) consider whether it wishes to make a recommendation to the Executive that the motion set out below be supported: or be supported subject some amendment; or be opposed.

**2.0 MOTION - CLOSURE OF LIBRARIES**

- 2.1** At the meeting of full Council held on 16 February 2011 County Councillor John Clark moved and County Councillor John Savage seconded the following -

*"Free access to books and other sources of information is a cornerstone of a civilised society. The Library Consultation has caused immense unease and foreboding throughout North Yorkshire. In the present financial climate this has to be balanced with the totally unreasonable reduction in government grants to Local Authorities and hence the need for cuts.*

*The Consultation proposals have left many residents of North Yorkshire with the justified view that the 'we are all in it together' approach does not apply.*

*Those in the smaller communities are going to bear the brunt of the 'cuts' while those in the larger towns are to be left unscathed. This Council therefore resolves that:*

- i) 6 of the 10 Mobile Libraries will be retained*
- ii) All the smaller Libraries will be kept open, albeit with reduced hours.*
- iii) There will be a reduction in the opening hours of the main Libraries.*
- iv) The proposed Super Mobile Library will not be proceeded with."*

- 2.2** As mover and seconder, County Councillors John Clark and John Savage have been invited to attend this meeting to speak on their motion.

**3.0 NEXT STEPS**

The motion having been formally moved and seconded, without comment, was referred to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive for consideration and report back to Council in May. The Committee may wish to express a view to the Executive on whether the motion, should be supported; should be supported subject to some amendment; or should be opposed.

By way of background information the Committee will be aware of the major public consultation exercise (concluded 28 February 2011) which was undertaken on the future of North Yorkshire's library service. The consultation attracted a huge

response. Staff are now analysing all the responses received. A full report covering the findings of the analysis and highlighting issues raised by the public plus their ideas on how to address the budget deficit whilst maintaining a much valued service will be produced. Recommendations from this will be considered by the County Council's Executive 14 June 2011.

#### **4.0 THE ROLE OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

4.1 It is for the Committee to consider the motion and to report back any recommendations it may wish to make to the Executive or to full Council.

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to make a recommendation to the Executive that the motion set out above be supported; or be supported subject to some amendment; or be opposed.

Joint report of:-

CAROLE DUNN  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall  
NORTHALLERTON

BRYON HUNTER  
Team Leader Corporate Development

3 May 2011  
JW

Background Documents      [www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraryconsultation](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraryconsultation)

Author of Report                  Jane Wilkinson