

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 November 2011

Future delivery of Library Services in North Yorkshire

1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To introduce the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Partnerships) on the future delivery of Library Services in North Yorkshire.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council's Executive will consider a further report on Tuesday, 22 November 2011.
- 2.2 The Committee's role is to review the conclusions and recommendations in the report and, if it wishes, inform the Executive of its view.

3.0 Previous Scrutiny Consideration

- 3.1 The Committee last reviewed proposals on the future of the service on 14 June. On that occasion the Committee heard from members of the public and other County Councillors expressing both their concerns about their library and their interest in the future of the Library Service.
- 3.2 The Committee took the view that the comments from the public at the last meeting showed that people value their Library Service greatly. They especially like its diversity. In most people's mind, the case had been made for community support and volunteering to enhance the Library Service. Therefore, the Committee welcomed the on-going discussions with all community groups, irrespective of the category of their Library.
- 3.3 At that time Committee Members wanted this dialogue to continue, and believed the County Council should be committed to offering expertise and advice so that community groups could see how and whether their aspirations could be realised through the preparation of business plans. There was also an acknowledgement that this exercise must include sensible challenge so that where an approach appears feasible, people can be confident about what is agreed will survive beyond the short-term. The aim must be to secure a modern library service that was sustainable for the future.

- 3.4 At that meeting you reached the following position, which the Executive was asked to take into consideration:
- a. Note the implications of the Equalities Impact Assessment and reassure itself that the proposals do not disadvantage some communities and users over others.
 - b. Consider the view that planning must take into account how changes to technology anticipated over the next five years will affect how communities and individuals access Library Services.
 - c. Agree that an annual report be made to Members tracking progress.
 - d. Ensure that the County Council continues to work with community groups, especially those in Category 3, where business plans can be developed and it is shown that savings can still be made to retain the existing budget envelope.

4.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Committee is invited to consider the report and decide whether it wishes to reach a view to recommend to the Executive.

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3 November 2011

Background Documents: None