

North Yorkshire County Council**Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee****5 June 2015****Reconfiguration of the Library Service****Report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Library Customer and Community Services****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To inform members of the outcome of the consultation on the future delivery of the library service
- 1.2 To seek Members' views on the final draft of the Equalities Impact Assessment
- 1.3 To seek Members views on the revised proposals and recommendations in the report to the Executive.
- 1.4 To bring to Members' attention the recommendation from the Harrogate Area Committee that they consider the points raised and recorded in the minutes of that Committee in respect of the petition regarding Knaresborough library when making their recommendations to the Executive in July 2015.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Library Service needed to save £1.6 million from its budget as part of the Council's overall savings of £167 million. Building on the success of the current 9 community managed libraries, the service consulted on proposals to increase the involvement of communities in the running of their local libraries, including transferring a further 20/21 libraries to community management.
- 2.2 Prior to the public consultation, the service consulted with a task group of the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the criteria which should be used to determine which libraries should be in each category. The Committee considered the report from their task group at their meeting on 13 October 2014. This is available as Item 7 on the web page below.
<http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=29&meetid=2166>

2.3 Members of the Executive will be considering the attached report on 7 July 2015 (see Appendix A). The report is referred to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable the Committee to give consideration to its content and to form views to pass to the Executive to take into account when making their decision.

2.4 The Committee is also asked to comment on the final draft of the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA), in Appendix 2 of the report to the Executive. The EIA has been updated following the consultation. The key equalities impacts identified are on access to the service for older people, children and disabled people, if communities do not take on the running of their local library. The proposals aim to go some way towards mitigating any adverse impact by working with local communities, providing training to volunteers and having a robust service agreement with community library management groups. The EIA also notes that equality of access to services will be reduced, particularly for people with low incomes and residents of rural areas, if communities do not come forward to manage their local libraries.

2.5 Four petitions from local communities have been considered by Area Committees. (See Appendix 1, Annex 12 for details of these).

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That O&S consider the report for the Executive and make recommendations to the Executive

3.2 That O&S consider the final draft of the EIA and give comments to the library service

3.3 That O&S consider the recommendation of the Harrogate Area Committee which considered the petition from Knaresborough

Appendix A

Reconfiguration of the Library Service Report going to the Executive Committee meeting which is to be held on 7 July 2015

Report Author

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