

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**22 July 2015**

**Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Chairman's Statement**

- 1 My statement for this full council includes details of the Committee meeting held on 5 June 2015.

**Committee – 5 June**

Reconfiguration of the Library Services

- 2 The sole purpose of the Committee was to consider the outcome of the consultation on the future delivery of the library service.
- 3 The Committee held a lengthy meeting, hearing a wide range of views and proposals from the ten public speakers, interested local councillors, as well as written submissions from members of the public and county councillors not on the committee.
- 4 The Committee looked at a range of options for delivering the service in some detail and agreed that the option that was being proposed to the Executive for an increased element of dedicated additional support staff for the proposed community managed libraries was the best way for the service to meet the Council's 2020 vision.
- 5 It would provide the immediate support for those community groups who were ready to run their local library.
- 6 It is though, up to each of the communities to determine how they run and manage their library. Changing the overall level of additional support given to the Libraries over and above the enhanced option that was proposed to the Executive, will require additional costs on top of the additional £100k that has been found for this additional support option.
- 7 It is clear that the community local groups are at differing stages of the process and an assessment of their journey will be made by the Library service. This is to be reported to the Executive in December. Councillor Metcalfe has agreed that this report will come to the Committee prior to it going to the Executive meeting on 8 December 2015.
- 8 The Committee further considered the question of whether the Council should consider a voluntary model for Libraries that would allow Charitable Trusts to be formed to manage a group of libraries in a geographical area.

9. This could enable the development of all three libraries in an area such as Catterick, Colburn and Richmond to be stronger through them working together more efficiently.
10. The Committee recommended that this model should be considered and utilised where appropriate. This was agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 7 July 2015.
11. The effect of the Executive's decisions is that it may mean an extra meeting of the Committee would need to be held on 16 November 2015 so that it can consider the Community Groups report before it is considered by the Executive.

**County Councillor Derek Bastiman**  
**Chairman**

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
County Hall  
Northallerton

8 July 2015