

Reference Number: 2020/CEO Emergency Powers/17

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DECISION RECORD

Re: Revised Library Strategy

This record is produced in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

This form should be used to record:

- **EXECUTIVE decisions (key or otherwise) taken by an individual Executive MEMBER; and**
- **EXECUTIVE decisions (key or otherwise) taken by an OFFICER (either alone or in consultation with an Executive Member)**
- **A non-Executive decision taken by an OFFICER which falls into one of the following descriptions:-**
 - (i) under a specific express authorisation; or**
 - (ii) under a general authorisation to officers to take such decisions and, the effect of the decision is to**
 - **grant a permission or licence;**
 - **affect the rights of an individual; or**
 - **award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects that relevant local government body's financial position.**

(One form per decision)

The following decision has been taken: -

After consideration of a report of the Assistant Director Policy, Partnerships and Communities and after consultation with Executive Members, the Chief Executive Officer agreed that:

- i) The revised Library Strategy 'Your Library, your place' be recommended to the County Council for approval as part of the Council's Policy Framework.
- ii) The implementation of the revised Library Strategy should involve community libraries and engagement with communities.

By whom: Richard Flinton, Chief Executive Officer, under his emergency delegated powers and in consultation with Executive Members.

On: 21 April 2020

Was this an executive decision?

YES/NO

If an executive decision, was it also a key decision?

YES/NO

Please note that call-in has been exempted from this decision by the Chairman of the County Council under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16(h).

Reasons for decision: -

To update the Strategy to reflect the current model of delivery in partnership with community libraries and volunteers; the changes that have taken place in the use of public libraries with the development of the virtual library; and the increasing role of libraries as community hubs supporting delivery of wider council services. The revised Strategy sets out a strategic vision for the next ten years, recognising these changes and how the service will prioritise resources and continue innovating to meet the needs of communities in partnership with those communities.

The draft Strategy was well received during the public consultation.

The County Council has a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' for all those who live, work or study in the area. In providing this service, the council must encourage both adults and children to make full use of the library service, and lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area. The revised Library Strategy 'Your Library, your place' seeks to ensure that the County Council continues to fulfil the statutory duty.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: -

The principal alternatives to adopting a revised Library Strategy are to:

a. Continue with the existing strategy New Look, No Shush!, but this was developed over ten years ago so does not reflect the current model of delivery in partnership with community libraries and volunteers; the changes that have taken place in the use of public libraries with the development of the virtual library; or the increasing role of libraries as community hubs supporting delivery of wider council services.

b. Cease to have a Library Strategy, but this would leave the Council and its partners without a clear statement about the role of the library service.

Conflicts of Interest

Please record below details of any conflict of interest declared by a Member or Officer regarding the decision and any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee or Monitoring Officer in respect of that conflict.

Conflict	Dispensation?

Background Papers

Please attach to this decision notice, for publication, the background papers that disclose any facts or matters on which this decision, or an important part of the decision, was based and which were relied on to a material extent in making the decision, but this does not include

published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10).

Signed
RICHARD FLINTON, Chief Executive Officer

Publication Date: 24 April 2020

Directorate – Central Services

***Note 1 regarding Executive decisions only:
This decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 clear working days after publication, unless any 6 members of the Council object to it and call it in by notice in writing (including e-mail) to The Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services).***

Note 2: non-executive and non-key executive decisions by Officers are not subject to call in.

Contact for further information: neil.irving@northyorks.gov.uk

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To: The PA to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) - for onward circulation to:

All Members of the Council; All Management Board; All Management Board Secretaries; All Senior Managers; All Democratic Services Officers; All Corporate Development Officers; Senior Press Officer; Communications Officer