

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: THE FUTURE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOUTHAMPTON LIBRARY SERVICE

DATE: 13 NOVEMBER 2014

RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

This report, which is to be published on 10 November 2014, will be presented to Cabinet on 18 November 2014 for decision. The report represents the start of a journey of transformation for the Library Service. The ultimate aim being to develop and deliver a comprehensive and efficient service which is modern, creative, innovative, inclusive and affordable that reflects the changing needs of the Southampton community.

The report proposes key priorities, shaped by the strategic context of the city and the council but also key drivers for change including changes in customer behaviour and information technology.

It is proposed to run an extensive consultation process, giving people the opportunity to make representations on the proposal and offer alternatives for consideration. The feedback from the consultation will be evaluated and where appropriate, amendments will be made to the existing proposals and any alternatives put forward will be assessed before the final recommendations are submitted to Cabinet for decision in July 2015. The implementation of any changes to the Library Service will follow thereafter.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. The aim of the project is to develop and deliver a proposal for the future of the library service in Southampton which is comprehensive and efficient, that is modern, creative, innovative, and inclusive, which is financially sustainable and reflects the changing needs of the Southampton Community.
2. The project wanted to identify ways that would look at the options that would offer the City:
 - A **comprehensive** service because the Council is required to provide a library services for residents and visitors. Services need to be accessible across the city.
 - An **efficient** service because there is a need to maximise the benefit of the service, and its effectiveness with the resources that will be available.
 - A **modern** service reflecting that people wish to access library services in new ways, such as the use of technology, e-books and Wi-Fi.
 - A **sustainable** service which is fit for purpose and affordable. There have already been reductions to the library services budgets in recent years and future budget savings require the need to re-organise and re-design the service.
 - A **creative and innovative** service in the forefront of delivering services in

