

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 10th September 2015

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
13/08/15	Communities, Culture & Leisure	Future of the Southampton Library Service	1) That the Cabinet defer the 18 th August decision and refer it to Full Council on 16 th September.	The decision will be taken at Cabinet on 18 th August for the following reasons. 1) This decision does not meet the criteria for being required to be considered by Council. 2) Substantial debate has already taken place through Council motions, the 14 week public consultation and Overview and Scrutiny. 3) The decision has already been delayed one month from July 2015 to give the new cabinet member time to fully consider all the issues.	
			2) That the Cabinet Member commits to not closing any of the libraries until an alternative service provider is in place.	Efforts will be focused on ensuring interest and support for community libraries is translated into action for April 2016. In order to progress this initiative in the timescales outlined in the report it is important that deadlines are met.	
			3) That the Cabinet Member clarifies the Administration's position with regards to the disposal of the buildings should the libraries close.	This is set out in paragraph 88 of the Cabinet report.	
			4) That the Cabinet Member explores opportunities to recharge appropriate costs to the Housing Revenue Account.	The HRA may well be able to support projects that deliver benefits to Council tenants. The HRA is not in a position to pick up the core cost of the Library service. This is covered in para 16 of the Cabinet report.	
13/08/15	Communities,	Future of the	5) That the Cabinet Member looks	Work will continue to explore opportunities to	

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	Culture & Leisure	Southampton Library Service	again at options relating to sharing library services with other local authorities.	work with neighbouring authorities. This is described in para 20 of the Cabinet report. The other authorities that we have approached are not currently in a position to share services. A shared service would not necessarily guarantee the future of the libraries. Book buying is already done through a consortium approach.	
			6) That the Cabinet Member explores opportunities to supplement library funding with funding from the Pupil Premium and health services.	Health agencies have been engaged through the formulation of the proposals. Whilst there is support for the service, this has not translated into offers of investment in providing the core service. This is covered in para 18 of the Cabinet report. Schools already fund the Schools Library Service, officers will explore with Schools, whether there is interest to further support the wider library services. It is not anticipated that this would cover the entire core service.	
			7) That the Cabinet Member updates the Committee at a future meeting with examples of best practice relating to community led libraries.	Officers will provide an update in 2016, when community and not for profit organisations have had a reasonable period of time to engage and progress through the process of developing community independent libraries and reference will be made to other examples of best practice.	
13/08/15	Finance	Consultation on proposed changes to the General Fund	1) That, to enable the Committee to effectively scrutinise the Council's budget, the Chief Financial Officer circulates the monthly financial monitoring report to the OSMC.	A response will be provided to the Committee prior to 10 th September meeting.	