
Cabinet Member for Education

20th January 2015

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Education – Councillor D Kershaw

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director for People

Ward(s) affected:

Wainbody

Title:

Petition - Finham Library

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

A petition with 446 signatures to date, organised by a Wainbody Ward resident and sponsored by Councillor Sawdon, has been presented to the City Council asking them to reconsider making cuts to Finham Library. In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, those relating to library issues are heard by the Cabinet Member for Education.

Recommendation:

Cabinet Member for Education is requested to note the petition and request that Officers write to the petition spokesperson to advise them of the Council's current position and assure them that Finham residents will be encouraged to participate in any future consultation exercise, if one is undertaken, in relation to library services in Coventry.

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Petition - Requesting the Council to Reconsider Making Cuts to Finham Library

1. Background

- 1.1 A petition was presented to the meeting of the Council on 11th November 2014 with 201 signatures (subsequently additional signatures were submitted and the total number increased to 446), organised by a Wainbody Ward Resident and sponsored by Councillor Sawdon asking:-

“We the undersigned understand the need for cuts in all services, but we in Finham have only a library. It provides facilities for many different groups to meet for all ages from babies music, children’s story time and craft to adult groups. If any of the Finham library services are cut we will have nothing left for the community of Finham. The children don’t even have a play area. So please take this into consideration when making the library cuts.”

- 1.2 The City Council currently operate a Library Service comprising Central Library plus 16 community libraries, a mobile service and an at home service. Finham Library, located in Finham Green Road, is one of the City’s long-standing Community Libraries.
- 1.3 The petition relates to genuine concern from local residents regarding the level of service reductions that may need to be considered by Coventry City Council as a result of sustained cuts by Central Government to the Council’s finances. The City Council has made clear that as a result of reducing resources, all Council services will be reviewed with a view to identifying the most efficient way of delivering services, particularly those that protect the most vulnerable.
- 1.4 There is currently no proposal to change the configuration of library services in the City. Officers are considering a range of options to ensure the Council can respond to the financial challenges and these will be considered in the Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2015.
- 1.5 The way in which library provision is provided across the City may be considered within service reviews and at this formative stage and prior to any decisions being made a full consultation exercise will be undertaken.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There is no current proposal to close Finham Library therefore, there is no further action that Officers are recommending to take in terms of this request.
- 2.2 However, the Cabinet Member is recommended to request that Officers write to the petition spokesperson to advise them of the Council’s current position and assure them that Finham residents will be encouraged to participate in any future consultation exercise, if one is undertaken, in relation to library services in Coventry.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No consultation has been undertaken. Any future proposals about the provision of library services in the future will at a formative stage and prior to any decisions being made be the subject of a full consultation exercise.

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

- 5.1 Financial implications
There are no financial implications as a result of this report.
- 5.2 Legal implications
There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

Not applicable.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

None

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

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Diane Jones	Lead Accountant – Business Partner, Finance	Resources	11/12/2014	17/12/14
Julie Newman	Senior Solicitor, Legal Services	Resources	11/12/2014	18/12/14
Councillor D Kershaw	Cabinet Member for Education	-	12/12/2014	22/12/14

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