



---

**To: Cabinet**

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Subject: Connecting Communities Phase 2 Proposals – Petitions**

---

**1 Purpose of the Note**

To inform the Cabinet of the consideration of petitions submitted as part of the Connecting Communities consultation by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills at his meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**2 Recommendations**

- 1) The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People recommends that the Cabinet take account of the issues raised through the petitions, submitted as part of the Connecting Communities consultation on the 'Family Hubs' proposal, when considering the Connecting Communities report at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017.
- 2) The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills recommends that the Cabinet :-
  - i) Takes into account the issues raised through the petitions submitted as part of the Connecting Communities consultation on Library proposals when considering the Connecting Communities report at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.
  - ii) Recognising the high level of community support and interest in maintaining libraries, recommends that the Cabinet considers using that level of support to campaign for increased Government funding.

**3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 A public consultation took place from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 on a set of proposals across Children's Centres, nurseries, youth service and libraries with an associated Phase 2 savings target of £3.8m.
- 3.2 The proposals included the development of integrated Family Hubs for 0 – 19 year olds, located in areas of highest need (turning 8 Children's Centres into Family Hubs and retaining Council delivery of a targeted and specialist youth offer focused on young people who are hardest to reach and most vulnerable as part of the Family Hub model).
- 3.2 The proposals also included the development of sustainable, modern and comprehensive libraries as community hubs in three broad categories of core libraries, partnership libraries and community-led libraries.

3.4 During the consultation, 1 e-petition and 5 written petitions were received in relation to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills' portfolio and 2 e-petitions and 3 written petitions were received in relation to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's portfolio. 1 of the written petitions related to Youth Services, Children's Centres and Public Libraries, therefore this petition was considered by both Cabinet Members.

3.5 In accordance with the City Council's procedure for dealing with petitions, the petitions relating to the 'Family Hubs' proposal were submitted for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at his meeting on 28th February 2017 and the petitions relating to the 'Libraries' proposal were submitted for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills at his meeting on 6th March 2017.

3.6 The following petitions were considered by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People:

- i) 'Save Our Children's Centres' – 6 signatures
- ii) 'Save Our Youth Services' – 11 signatures
- iii) 'Save Jardine Youth Centre and Tile Hill Children's Centre' – 382 signatures
- iv) 'Please Stop Cuts to Youth Services' – 209 signatures
- v) 'Stop the Cuts' – 327 signatures

Three of the petition organisers attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of the petitioners. The other two petitions were considered in the petition organisers' absences.

Officers referred to the details of the proposals as set out in the published "Connecting Communities Phase 2" Cabinet report and appendices which are due to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's decision was as follows:

RESOLVED that, the Cabinet Member, having heard and considered the petitions submitted as part of the Connecting Communities Consultation on the 'Family Hubs' proposal,:

- 1) Agrees to write to the Minister of State for Children and Families to lobby the Government for funding to support the provision of youth services in the City.
- 2) Recommends that the Cabinet take into account the issues raised through the petitions, when considering the Connecting Communities report at their meeting on 7th March 2017.

3.7 The following petitions were considered by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i) 'Save Coventry Libraries' - 26 signatures
- ii) 'Save our Libraries' - 2,666 signatures
- iii) 'Save Coundon Library' - 555 signatures
- iv) 'Stop Caludon Library from Closing' - 43 signatures
- v) 'Object to closure of Finham Library' - 155 signatures
- vi) 'Stop the Cuts' - 327 signatures

Five of the petition sponsors/organisers attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of the petitioners. The other petition was considered in the petition organiser's absence.

Officers referred to the details of the proposals as set out in the published “Connecting Communities Phase 2” Cabinet report and appendices which are due to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills’ decision was as follows:-

1. Notes that Finham Library is the only community facility in Wainbody Ward and recognises the importance of maintaining community buildings in all areas of the City.
2. Recommends that the Cabinet takes into account the issues raised through the petitions submitted as part of the Connecting Communities consultation on Library proposals when considering the Connecting Communities report at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.
3. Recognising the high level of community support and interest in maintaining libraries, recommends that the Cabinet considers using that level of support to campaign for increased Government funding.

**Name:** Michelle McGinty

**Job Title:** Head of Involvement and Partnerships

**Contact Details:** Email: [michelle.mcginty@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.mcginty@coventry.gov.uk) Tel: 024 7683 1514