



To: Cabinet Member Education and Skills

Date: 17th January 2019

Subject: Library Service Budget Reduction – outcome of consultation

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills of the outcomes of consideration by the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) of a Libraries Update Briefing Note, at their meeting on the 29th November 2018.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, when making decisions about library service budget reduction, is recommended:
- 1) To ensure that the safety of the public, staff and volunteers, should be prioritised, especially in areas that suffer from anti-social behaviour
 - 2) To consider carefully the importance of thorough risk assessments when making decisions about lone working
 - 3) To note that the Board felt there should not be one person working in a building, particularly in areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 At their meeting on 29th November 2018, the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) considered a Libraries Update Briefing Note. The Note provided information on each of the libraries in the city, including the partnership and community libraries.
- 3.2 Members heard from some of the volunteers at libraries across the city. The Board commended those who had enabled all libraries in the city to remain open in the current climate and particularly thanked the volunteers.
- 3.3 The Briefing Note included performance information for the libraries as well as feedback from a Library User Satisfaction Survey.
- 3.4 The Briefing Note also contained information about the proposals for library budget reductions. These included a requirement for a further budget reduction of £319k. Proposals to reduce expenditure include:
- Reduce staffing in Aldermoor, Caludon, Canley and Coundon libraries to single staffing.

- Reduce staffing in Central Library by introducing a 'Library Express' model which will rely on self-service and limited staff supervision of the library from 9-11am Monday to Friday and on Sundays.
- End the provision of hard copy newspapers and magazines and support users to move to digital access either in the library or at home.
- Additional income from the introduction of a privately run café within Central Library and an externally funded Visa scheme.
- Reductions in other fixed library budgets and a review of management and non-front line posts.

3.5 The Board acknowledged financial constraints but raised concerns regarding the safety of staff, volunteers and the public, should the proposal to carry out lone working be implemented. They requested that the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills be advised of their concerns regarding the importance of risk assessments and that the Board felt there should not be only one person in a building and particularly in areas with Anti-Social Behaviour issues.

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