

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING:	<b>Cabinet</b>	
MEETING DATE:	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		<b>E3000</b>
TITLE:	<b>Modern Libraries Programme; Community Libraries Approach - Call In response</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
None		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 Cabinet made a decision on 11th October 2017 regarding an approach to Community-led Libraries (Decision E3000 - Modern Libraries Community Led Approach)
- 1.2 A Call-in of the decision was held on 13th November 2017 by the Communities, Transport and Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel, and this call-in was upheld.
- 1.3 Cabinet therefore needs to consider its response to the call-in and the Panel's recommendations

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to;

- 2.1 Consider the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations and take a decision on the appropriate option as detailed in 4.1.

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 As per Cabinet Report

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 As *The person or **body which made the decision shall consider the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel or Council and must;***

- (a) confirm the original decision; or

- (b) make some changes to the original decision; or
- (c) make a different decision.

4.2 The decision maker may not ignore the report. **The decision maker shall undertake this consideration within 10 working days** from the date of the Overview and Scrutiny (or Council) meeting.

4.3 The decision made by the decision maker after considering the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel shall be final and will be implemented immediately. There is no further opportunity for “call-in” of the decision.

## 5 THE REPORT

5.1 On the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 Bath & North East Somerset Cabinet made a decision to:-

- Adopt the new approach to delivering Community Run Library services in Bath and North East Somerset as set out in Appendix B as part of the overall Modern Libraries programme.
- Approve the release of Capital in the sum of £275,000 to invest in and support our new approach to Community Run Libraries.

5.2 This decision was then subject to a Call-in process on the grounds that:-

(1) The wrong decision was reached at the Cabinet meeting and for the following specific reasons:

- a. The report fails to identify the impact on current mobile library users once this service ceases.
- b. Inadequate consideration has been given to how sustainable it is to expect local groups to take on the running of libraries and how this would be funded.
- c. The consultation on this approach has been limited and the results of this consultation have not been published (to be considered with 2i).
- d. The Equalities Impact Assessment referred to as a background paper does not appear to have been published.

(2) The call-in request is made in the public interest of full disclosure of the facts underpinning the decision and for the following specific reasons:

- i. The decision has been taken without any open, public consultation having been carried out.
- ii. No financial breakdown has been provided to decision-makers regarding the proposed savings and no detail is offered of how the community model may work.

- Information about the ownership of branch library buildings is not included in the report

5.3 The call in of the decision E3000 (Modern Libraries **Community Lead Approach**) was heard by the Communities, Transport and Environment PDS Panel on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017. After extensive debate the call in was **upheld** (4 for 4 against and 1 abstention. The Chairman used his casting vote to vote for the proposal). The Panel voted to refer the Call in back to the Cabinet to reconsider the decision, the Panel suggest the Cabinet consider the following:

- That the Cabinet do more work around public consultation and assessing whether local groups can pick up the pieces;
- More work be done to find out the appetite for this approach;
- The certainty over the future of the Mobile Library be put in writing.

5.4 A detailed report considering the Panel’s 3 specific points will be issued as a supplementary report in advance of the meeting.

## 6 RATIONALE

6.1 As per the Cabinet Report

## 7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 As per the Cabinet report

## 8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Cabinet Member for Transformation & Customer Services.

8.2 The S151 and monitoring officer have had opportunity to review and input into this report.

## 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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<b>Background papers</b>	
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	