

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference

E3136

Future management of Radstock Library building

Decision maker/s	Cllr Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency Cllr Karen Warrington, Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services
The Issue	<p>This report relates to future management of Radstock Library, which is one of the five branch libraries currently operated by the Council. As part of the Council's Modern Libraries Programme which includes an approved model for Community Run Libraries in October 2017, it is proposed to transfer the property related costs to Radstock Town Council. The decision regarding the Library Service has already been approved as an Officer decision.</p> <p>The proposal is fully in line with the Council's strategic objectives relating to Modern Libraries Programme and contributes towards the overall savings target of £700,000, at the same time as maintaining valuable library services to the community. It is a solution which demonstrates the Council working effectively with the local community group to find alternative solutions to delivering services</p>
Decision Date	On or after 23 rd March 2019
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Members agree to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delegate to the Head of Estates to complete the disposal of the Radstock Library premises into a final lease with Radstock Town Council in line with the draft Heads of Terms attached, subject to financial review.• Abate the rent to a peppercorn subject to the Radstock Town Council satisfying the Council that they will use the premises for the purposes set out in their draft Business Plan.
Rationale for decision	<p>The proposal has been agreed as it enables the Council to implement its policy for Community run libraries and enables the Modern Libraries Programme to achieve its overall savings targets.</p> <p>The Council has committed to delivering three Core Libraries (Bath, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton) and by working more closely with local community it can continue to deliver a comprehensive library offer which is tailored to the local community's needs.</p> <p>Radstock Town Council will create a 'Community Hub', primarily a library use and other activities including: continued access to children's services, access to advice and information services such as CAB, PCSOs, Big Local, Tourist Information etc and a meeting space for community groups.</p>

<p>Financial and budget implications</p>	<p>This proposal to lease the building to Radstock Town Council forms part of the Modern Libraries programme which will help deliver £700k of revenue savings over the next two years by 2020/21. Transferring the running costs to the Radstock Town Council will save the Council approximately £18,500 per year. The maintenance liabilities will be the responsibility of the Town Council.</p> <p>A condition survey was carried out on the building in 2017. Some remedial repairs may be required, however these costs will be covered within existing budgets.</p> <p>The non-cashable savings include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community benefit from the Town Council by joining up and delivering services in one place; • Provides resilience for the Library to remain open; • Enables the Council to target resources and activity to the most vulnerable and maintaining its statutory duty for delivering core library services.
<p>Issues considered (these are covered in more detail in the report)</p>	<p>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</p>
<p>Consultation undertaken</p>	<p>Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Town Council; Trades Unions; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer</p>
<p>How consultation was carried out</p>	<p>The Modern Libraries Programme has been extensively discussed by the Council. Locally there have been requests made for appropriate groups to come forward and offer these services. These have also been discussed at open public meetings within the local community.</p> <p>Staff have been consulted on the options and are involved in developing and supporting the community run library approach.</p> <p>Radstock Town Council have informed the local community about their proposals which has been evidenced in their draft Business Plan.</p>
<p>Other options considered</p>	<p>This option has been chosen as it supports the Council to implement its Modern Libraries Programme and achieve the overall savings target. It provides the community with a valuable resource and helps to maintain a valued library service.</p> <p>This is the only proposal that has been received for this location and it meets the criteria set out for Community Run Libraries.</p>
<p>Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for</p>	<p>None</p>

decision, including any dispensation granted:	
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	None
Signatures of Decision Makers	
Date of Signature	
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	