

Single Member Cabinet Decision

**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**

E3165

Removal of Library fines

Decision maker/s	Cllr Crossley Cabinet Member for Community Services
The Issue	<p>Charging fines for late return of books has been identified as a potential barrier to the public use of libraries. The barriers being caused by a number of factors, which include (but not limited to) embarrassment, lack of ability to pay, social anxiety and accessibility.</p> <p>In recognition of this barrier there is a movement both nationally and internationally to remove library fines supporting the key messages of libraries as a safe and equitable place for all residents, and its aims to improve literacy, social and health well-being and to support the reduction of social isolation</p>
Decision Date	On or after 14 th September 2019
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that fines for overdue books are now formally removed and fines for overdue DVDs and talking books (and whilst still available, Cds) are replaced with repeat charges.
Rationale for decision	The removal of fines will remove barriers for the more vulnerable in our community, encourage usage of the service, enhance our reputation as a progressive and inclusive library service and allow for new ways of working.
Financial and budget implications	A review of revenue, costs and opportunities associated with the administration of library fines for overdue items indicates that the cost of applying and collecting library fines outweighs the revenue and restricts the possibility of introducing new ways of working and simpler and less expensive self-serve solutions.
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillor; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Sharing the report which outlines the outcomes of the trial, and the rationale for the removal of fines.
Other options considered	N/A
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision, including	None

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