

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	15 June 2017
Title:	National Libraries Taskforce: New Vision for Library Services in England
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside endorses the Libraries Taskforce's **Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021** and recognises its good fit with Hampshire's Library Strategy to 2020.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Libraries in England received 224.6 million visits in 2014/15, more than visits to Premier League football games, the cinema and the top 10 UK tourist attractions combined. However, over the last 20 or so years, visits to libraries have been declining, as have the number of book issues and, up and down the country libraries have been closing (67 in 2015/16) as a result of pressures on local authority budgets.
- 2.2. In response to these ongoing challenges the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the Local Government Association set up a Libraries Taskforce in 2015. Its role is to work in partnership with central and local government to help local authorities improve, revitalise and adapt their local library services. In December 2016 the Taskforce published [Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021](#) which sets out a vision for the future of libraries

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. N/A.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

15 June 2017

Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Councillor Andrew Gibson