

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Committee</b>	Children and Young People Select Committee
<b>Date:</b>	14 November 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Working Group Proposal
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is for the Children and Young People Select Committee to consider whether to initiate a Working Group to review and scrutinise the Children's Services Savings Proposal that is subject to Stage 2 consultation. The proposal relates to a reduction in the annual expenditure on library stock.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That the Children and Young People's Select Committee:
  - a. Set up a Task and Finish Working Group to oversee and scrutinise the approach and outcomes of the County Council's stage 2 consultation relating to annual expenditure on library stock.
  - b. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Working Group as set out in Appendix 1.
  - c. Agree the membership of the Working Group.

### Contextual information

3. The Budget Consultation 2024-2026 Making the Most of Your Money, published in June 2023, proposed a number of reductions in Children's Services budgets, approved by Full County Council on 9 November 2023. One proposal is identified as requiring Stage 2 consultation, which is as follows:
  - Proposal relating to a reduction in the annual expenditure on library stock.
4. **Proposal relating to a reduction in the annual expenditure on library stock;** this would see annual expenditure on library stock, such as books and digital resources, reduced by £200,000, representing an average 17% reduction in the £1.2m spent annually on new physical and digital stock combined. The recommendation is to achieve this through a combination of

reducing spend on physical and digital stock collectively, as this will minimise the impact on any one customer group whilst continuing to meet our statutory duties.

### **Proposal**

5. It is proposed that a Task and Finish Working Group be created which would give an opportunity to see the finalised stage 2 consultation documents, receive updates on the consultation process and coverage for engagement of key stakeholders, and provide feedback on the presentation of the findings of the Stage 2 Consultation process.
6. The Task and Finish Working Group will be able to make independent recommendations to the Select Committee to inform scrutiny of the final savings proposals put forward for consideration by the Executive Members.
7. It is recommended that the Select Committee set up a Task and Finish Working Group for this purpose, review and approve the attached terms of reference, and agree membership.