

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
<b>Date:</b>	28 July 2020
<b>Title:</b>	Library Service Transformation – Strategy to 2025
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

**Contact name:** Emma Noyce – Head of Library Service

**Tel:** 0370 779 8373

**Email:** [emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk)

#### 1. The decision:

That the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage:

- i) Approves the achievement of £1.76 million savings through the Libraries Transformation Programme.
- ii) Approves the operations target to be increased by £75,000 to £1.115 million in order to compensate for the under delivery of the income generation target.
- iii) Approves the Library Vision to 2025.
- iv) Confirms that that he is satisfied that the Library Service described in paragraph 66 meets the statutory requirements of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, comprising a comprehensive and efficient service which meets the needs of those who live, work and study in Hampshire.
- v) Approves the closure of the eight libraries listed in paragraph 153: Blackfield, Elson, Fair Oak, Horndean, Lee-on-the-Solent, Lyndhurst, Odiham and South Ham.
- vi) Approves a reduction in opening hours across the Service averaging 20%, together with proposals to standardise hours as far as practical.
- vii) Approves a second public consultation to confirm the actual *opening times* at each council-run library and delegates authority to determine *opening times* to the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in consultation with the Executive Member.

- viii) Approves the Library Service's plan to withdraw support from Lowford, Kingsclere, Milford-on-Sea and North Baddesley community-managed libraries and help them to transition to an independent community library model.
- ix) Instructs the Library Service to explore different and more effective ways to deliver services for Hampshire's most deprived communities, initially in Leigh Park, Havant and Bridgemary, taking into account any opportunities to support communities in Elson.
- x) Agrees the plans to deliver efficiencies of £146,000 from library resources.
- xi) Approves the Library Service's plans to generate income through room hire and leases; reviewing current fees and charges; and encouraging fundraising, sponsorship and donations to the Service.
- xii) Notes that the Income Generation target set out within the consultation document will not be met within the required timescales and therefore adjusts other savings targets accordingly.
- xiii) Gives due regard to the Equalities, Human Resource and Financial impacts of each of the recommendations and agrees the mitigation proposed.
- xiv) Notes the timelines for implementation.
- xv) Approves the support for Independent Community Libraries to have access to the Library Service Group Membership Scheme to refresh their physical stock and to reserve specific titles from the Hampshire Library Collection, including Ready Reads if collected on behalf of a Hampshire Library customer.
- xvi) Approves the extension of the current lease at Lyndhurst Library through to the end of December 2020, subject to the consent of the landlord and to enter into discussions about transitioning to an independent community library.
- xvii) Confirms that applications for awards of up to £10,000 from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund will be invited from the eight libraries agreed for closure and the four community run libraries. In addition, approves that officer advisory support will be available for up to one year to support the transition of library functions and property handover.

## **2. Reasons for the decision:**

- 2.1 The report outlines the strategy for a transformation programme to provide a comprehensive, high quality and affordable Library Service which enables the delivery of £1.76 million savings by April 2021 and provides for financial stability beyond this date.

2.2 In January 2020, Hampshire County Council published its Consultation on Proposed Changes to Hampshire's Library Service ('the consultation')<sup>1</sup>. This consultation set out a vision for the future delivery of library services in Hampshire and outlined the changes which would be required to deliver that vision whilst meeting budget reduction targets.

2.3 The report seeks approval for the future vision, providing a summary of the consultation responses and shows how the proposals contained within the consultation have been revised and developed to reflect the views of individuals and organisations.

### **3. Other options considered and rejected:**

3.1 Find savings elsewhere: Officers have considered alternative proposals put forward by respondents to deliver additional savings or generate additional income. However, these are either already part of the existing savings plans, or are not deliverable within the current savings strategy timescales and therefore will be considered as part of a future programme of savings beyond Tt2021. This option has therefore been discounted.

3.2 Retain all targets as consulted on, only achieve £1.685 million savings: This would mean that the Library Service would not achieve the required £1.76 million in savings. This option has therefore been discounted.

3.3 Achieve more than £1.76 million in savings through a further increase in the Operations target: This option has been given serious consideration but would require changes over and above that which have been consulted on and would therefore require additional consultation. The option has therefore been discounted.

3.4 Achieve the £1.76 million but with a different balance of closures and opening hour reductions: This option would adversely impact the busiest libraries and would not position the Library Service well should future savings need to be made. This option has therefore been discounted.

### **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**

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<sup>1</sup>Hampshire Library Service Consultation -

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/library-consultation>

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**Councillor Seán Woodward**  
**Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage**

**28 July 2020**