

REPORT OF THE
Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
PART II

223. LIBRARY SERVICE TRANSFORMATION: STRATEGY TO 2020

1. On 18 April 2016 the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside approved the new Strategy for the Library Service. The Strategy outlines a transformation programme to provide a comprehensive, high quality and affordable Library Service which is sustainable for the 21st century.

2. Between 2 November 2015 and 16 January 2016, a public consultation was conducted regarding the proposals for the future delivery of the Library Service. Over 9,500 responses were received from individuals and 58 responses from organisations including from Parish and Town Councils. Over 60% of both respondents and residents agreed that modernisation is needed to meet the changing demands and financial constraints placed on the Library Service. The majority of respondents also agreed that the County Council should seek to make savings to ensure that the Library Service is financially sustainable.

3. Responses from the public consultation were collated and analysed and the draft Strategy was revised to reflect the views of the individuals and organisations that contributed. The main proposals of the Strategy are to:

- Replace the Mobile Library Service with a Home Library Service delivered by volunteers for those customers unable to access their nearest static library. This will be supplemented by working with Parish and Town Councils and local County Councillors in the 20 busiest mobile library stops and match up volunteers to deliver books to appropriate community gatherings. Free online Library learning sessions will also be delivered in community venues for communities that are losing their mobile library stop. Where possible the Library Service will develop links with voluntary sector groups which provide community transport to help rural communities that are losing their mobile stop access their local library.
- Invest £500,000 every year for four years from the £2 million Book Fund to make libraries modern and vibrant, with new technology and digital systems
- Place libraries into four different tiers to provide a standardised approach to services and that these tier allocations be reviewed on a bi-annual basis according to a specific set of criteria
- Share Library buildings with complementary partner organisations for several services to be accessed in one visit
- Develop Library staff in line with the transformation priorities

- Increase the use of trained volunteers to support the work of paid Library staff
- Phase a withdrawal of poorly used Library collections (e.g. CDs, games, and DVDs) and transfer specialist collections to other providers

4. The Library Strategy sets out the challenges, considerations and direction of travel over the next five years that will ensure the Library Service is run efficiently and positioned to meet the changing demands placed on it. The Strategy demonstrates a commitment to the delivery of a broad range of modern, affordable library services that aim to meet people's needs in reading, information, learning, literacy, health and wellbeing, business and leisure.

Further details on this item can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings.htm by typing in the relevant reference number:

- Library Service Transformation: Strategy to 2020 (7340)

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