

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO**      **CABINET**

**DATE:**            **TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2013**

**REPORT BY:**    **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

**SUBJECT:**        **A STRATEGY FOR FLINTSHIRE LIBRARIES 2013-16**

### **1.00**    **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01    To seek the approval of Cabinet to implement A Strategy for Flintshire's Libraries 2013-16.

### **2.00**    **BACKGROUND**

2.01    The delivery of public library services in the UK is statutory, governed by the Public Libraries and Museums Act of 1964, which requires local authorities to deliver a comprehensive and efficient service.

2.02    Since 2002, the Welsh Government, through CyMAL, its division for museums, archives and libraries, has set three-year Frameworks of Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS). These measure specific aspects of service delivery which Welsh Government requires public library authorities to work towards and achieve.

2.03    CyMAL has also set out its wider aspirations for library services in Wales in *Libraries Inspire – the strategic development framework for Welsh Libraries 2012-16* which focuses on the key themes of sustainable service delivery, access to resources, supporting investment in library buildings to meet the needs of the community, recognising libraries' contribution to information literacy and digital inclusion, investment in developing skills of library staff, coordinating a marketing programme and evaluating the quality of services against the Welsh Public Library Standards.

### **3.00**    **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01    In December 2009 Executive Committee endorsed the previous Strategy for Flintshire's Libraries 2009-12 as a blueprint for the future direction of the Library and Information Service over the following three years, and sanctioned its publication. The Strategy for Flintshire's Libraries 2013-16 updates the key objectives of the previous strategy to reflect the aims of the service for the next three years.

3.02    The draft Strategy for Flintshire's Libraries 2013-16 was published for public consultation on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Responses were received from elected

members, town and community councils, schools and individual library users. Many of the comments were supportive, and constructive suggestions have been incorporated into the final draft.

3.03 A Strategy for Flintshire's Libraries 2013-16 was presented to Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013 for approval. The Committee endorsed the Strategy and its five key objectives as a blueprint for the current and proposed offer from the Library Service over the next three years.

3.04 However, given the Council's revenue and capital pressures it cannot be assumed that the service at this level is sustainable in the long term. In common with all Council Services, it will be subject to future review and possible reprioritisation.

3.05 The library service is developing an exciting new shared service facility under the Flintshire Connects programme at Connahs Quay. This will again demonstrate that libraries can be at the heart of both communities and delivery of modern public services.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 Cabinet is requested to endorse the Strategy and its five key objectives as a blueprint for the current and proposed offer from the Library Service over the next three years.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 None arising directly as a result of this report. Any financial implications relating to proposed actions will be reported to Members through the budget setting process.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 The Strategy includes aims which seek to address issues of access and affordability.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 The Strategy encompasses a number of issues which relate to equal opportunities.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None arising directly from this report.

## **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 No further consultation required, though stakeholders' views on the way in which library services are delivered will continue to be sought and acted upon where appropriate during the lifetime of the strategy.

## **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 A public consultation exercise was undertaken during January and February 2013. All elected members of the County Council were emailed a link to the draft strategy at the commencement of the consultation exercise.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 A Strategy for Flintshire's Libraries 2013-16.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Welsh Government. *Maintaining a valued service and How good is your public library service?*

*The fourth Framework of Welsh Public Library Standards 2011-14.*

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/museumsarchiveslibraries/cymal/libraries/wpls/wpls201114/?lang=en>

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