

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY 15TH MAY 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE**

SUBJECT: **MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR LIBRARIES – PROPOSAL
TO DEVELOP A NEW HUB LIBRARY AT DEESIDE
LEISURE CENTRE AND RE-LOCATE HAWARDEN,
MANCOT AND QUEENSFERRY LIBRARIES**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide members with feedback on the results of the consultation exercise, and the views of Scrutiny Committee together with the original basis of the proposal to Cabinet, and a final options appraisal. This will enable Cabinet to make a decision about the way forward.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Cabinet received a report in March 2015 outlining an overall medium term plan for libraries and the Councils Flintshire Connects facilities. Each major element identified a timeframe for consultation. The first of these is the proposal for the development of a new Hub Library at Deeside Leisure Centre as a sixth hub library to add to those in existing towns, and that could serve the communities of Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The attached scrutiny report (Appendix A) provides a detailed assessment of the considerations including the basis of the original proposal, a full impact and equalities assessment, the results of the consultation, and a proposed way forward that was presented to Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th May 2015. .

3.02 Appendix B provides a summary of the discussion and recommendations from the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The discussion, while ranging on a number of topics focussed on four main areas:-

- the location of Deeside Leisure Centre and whether this should be the preferred location;
- the robustness of the consultation exercise;
- the clarity of the options over community asset transfer; and

- detailed work such as design of the library and the resources that would be available.

An analysis and conclusion in relation to each of these main areas is detailed below.

3.03 Location was discussed as there was a general feeling that the three communities (Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry) would not be best served, in terms of distance from a library, by a provision at Deeside Leisure Centre. Alternatives were put forward for a hub library at either Hawarden or Mancot.

The Public Library Standard for access to a library (2.5 mile) was used to suggest the additional benefits for other areas. While this is one measure for a preferred location it is also critical to consider the available buildings that could be used in each location and if they meet the library vision for being a potential co-located hub with other services. Finally it is important to consider the additional benefits for each location such as funding that might be available and the other Flintshire communities that could also be served. The table below analyses these options and proposes a preferred option.

Table 1 – Analysis of a Preferred Location for a Hub Library operated by Flintshire CC

Criteria	Deeside L.C	Hawarden	Mancot
(1) Servicing of the 3 communities affected	Serves all 3 communities	Serves all 3 communities	Serves all 3 communities
(2) Available buildings for co-location	Deeside Leisure Centre already available with other public services and high footfall	No buildings currently available that would have high footfall and co-location with other big public services	No buildings currently available that would have high footfall and co-location with other big public services
(3) Additional benefits	Also serves Sealand and Garden City. Funding available for Library fit out from CyMAL.	Also serves Garden City and some areas of Broughton	Also serves Sealand and Garden City.

In conclusion arguments can be put forward about catchment area benefits for either of the three locations, as they each serve the three communities and other areas. Therefore the decisive factors for a decision on geographical location is the ability to co-locate in an area of high footfall with other public service provision, and the ability to bring in external funding to ensure a modern and fit for purpose

library. The analysis shows this can only be achieved at Deeside Leisure Centre.

- 3.04 In terms of public consultation a review of the work has been undertaken that provides the following conclusion. The Council has run an open consultation exercise. In recent years the Council has followed best practice on how it consults and always avoids pre-determination. By undertaking a full consultation exercise with users, community representatives, young people and the equality assurance group, and then providing these results, as well as additional correspondence received, such as petitions, and taking this back to scrutiny to debate before taking final proposals to Cabinet the Council is ensuring a proper democratic process has been discharged.

Ultimately it is the consultation along with the future vision for library services and budgetary constraints that are informing the development of a final set of options that will be considered by Cabinet, and it is Cabinet on behalf of the County Council that will take the decision about whether to proceed or not.

- 3.05 In terms of asset transfer the Council will consider, for a locally run bookstock and IT provision, either the existing library buildings or other locations identified by the community as having the potential for community asset transfer. After a decision has been taken on this report the Council will support communities to assess the feasibility of a transfer and identify the right location.

- 3.06 More detailed work on the design of the library and equipment to be put in the library has not been undertaken. Conceptual ideas have been developed but not finalised. After a decision has been taken on this report the Council will work with communities to determine the final design and the resources available in the library.

- 3.07 Appendix C provides final options analysis, after considering all of the above, which assesses each option and details a preferred option which is Option 4, a New Library at Deeside Leisure Centre with additional community based services and consideration of the feasibility of a community asset transfer(s).

- 3.08 After re-assessing the original proposal, completed consultation, discussion from Scrutiny Committee, and the result of the final options appraisal it is proposed to proceed with the development of a library at Deeside Leisure centre re-locating services from Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry. In light of the libraries vision, the consultation, and the discussions at Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee, work will be undertaken with the three communities specifically to:

- (1) Address the concerns raised about the Deeside location;
- (2) Plan community library services for each of these areas;

- (3) Identify if a community asset transfer is feasible and can be supported;
- (4) Work with communities to finalise the design and resources available for the new library at Deeside Leisure Centre.

3.09 If the recommendations in this report are approved work will then take place with communities to implement the proposals and establish a new library at Deeside, along with any other associated provision, so these services are in place sometime between January and April 2016.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Cabinet consider the results of the consultation, the views of Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the final options appraisal to determine the way forward.

4.02 Cabinet agrees to the development of a library at Deeside Leisure Centre re-locating services from Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry Libraries.

4.03 Cabinet agrees that the Council should work with the three communities specifically to:

- address the concerns raised about the Deeside Location;
- plan community library services for each of these areas;
- identify if a community asset transfer is feasible and can be supported;
- finalise the design and resources available at the new library at Deeside Leisure Centre.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 The capital cost of the proposals for a new library development at Deeside Leisure Centre are approximately £0.130m for which a grant application has been successfully made to CyMAL for over £0.090m with the remainder to be found within existing budgets.

5.02 The proposed re-location of three libraries into a new library facility at Deeside Leisure Centre will make a significant saving in relation to building costs and future repairs and maintenance. As part of the development, plans will be put in place for integrating staffing from the current three libraries which will also reduce operating costs. This is estimated at over £0.050m. This will contribute to the overall £0.600m savings that are anticipated will be needed in library services.

5.03 If a new library was to be built in the future, and it is the equivalent size of the current Mancot library, either to serve these communities or replace current provision which is not sustainable in the long term, then it is estimated that this would cost in the region of £0.750m (based on today's prices) for the building alone.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The impact assessment at Appendix A provides a detailed analysis of how the proposals for the development of a library at Deeside Leisure Centre impacts on particular groups and how these can be mitigated. A hub library in a Communities First Area supports the delivery of anti-poverty priorities.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 Environmental considerations are taken into account in the development of proposals for a new library at Deeside Leisure Centre.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 A draft equalities impact assessment is attached at Appendix A for the proposals relating to the library at Deeside Leisure Centre.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 Staff reductions will occur if a decision is taken to re-locate services from three libraries to Deeside Leisure Centre.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Consultation has taken place as identified in this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Whatever decisions are taken by cabinet in May further work will take place with all three communities to implement these decisions in the best way possible.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix A – Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 30th April 2015: MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR LIBRARIES – PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP NEW HUB LIBRARY AT DEESIDE LEISURE CENTRE AND RE-LOCATE HAWARDEN, MANCOT AND QUEENSFERRY LIBRARIES

12.02 Appendix B – Draft Notes from Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monday 11th May

12.02 Appendix C – Final Options Analysis

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Cabinet Report 17th March 2015 : Medium Term Plan for Library and

Connects Services

Contact Officer: Pennie Corbett, Principal Libraries & Arts Officer.

Telephone: 01352 704402

Email: pennie.corbett@flintshire.gov.uk