

# **Appendix A**

## **Flintshire County Council**

### **Library Services Consultation**

**In relation to the Feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer of  
Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney Libraries**

### **Summary Report**

## **Contents**

The Purpose of the Consultation	3
The Period of Consultation	3
Who was consulted	3
Consultation Responses	4
What people told us	
Hope	5
Mynydd Isa	5
Saltney	6
Next Steps	6
Annex 1. Consultation document	7

## **The purpose of the consultation:**

During 2014/15 Town and Community Councils have been invited to express an interest in taking over council assets in their communities, libraries were included in the list of assets.

The Medium Term Plan for Libraries, agreed by the Council in 2015, to meet the anticipated savings of 30-50% by 2018, included the proposal to have full Community Asset transfer at Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney. It was agreed that consultation would take place during the Summer and Autumn of 2015. Councillors will consider all feedback received when making their final decision on whether a Community Asset Transfer is possible or what else might be done in light of the conclusion in the Medium Term Libraries plan that future Council provision of services is no longer a sustainable option for these libraries.

The consultation paper included the background to the CAT proposals, examples of models of community run and community funded libraries, details of how community groups could be supported through CAT and information on how to submit responses to the consultation.

## **The period of consultation:**

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

## **Who was consulted?**

- Letters outlining the proposals and inviting feedback were sent to:

Argoed Community Council  
Hope Community Council  
Saltney Town Council

### **Primary schools**

Abermorddu School  
Ysgol Estyn, Hope  
Ysgol Mynydd Isa  
Saltney Ferry Primary School  
Wood Memorial Primary School  
St Anthony's Catholic Primary School

### **High Schools**

Castell Alun High School  
Argoed High School  
St David's High School

- Consultation documents were deposited in all libraries and on the council's website. Multiple copies were made available in Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney libraries.
- Meetings were held with ward members representing all 3 communities
- Meetings were held with Head of Castell Alun school as stakeholder of Hope library which shares a site with the school
- Meeting held with community interest company at Mynydd Isa Community Centre
- Chief Officer Organisational Change and Principal Libraries and Arts Officer were invited to attend at Town and Community Councils at two locations
- Chief Officer Organisational Change and Principal Libraries and Arts Officer were invited to attend meetings with one community group
- Principal Librarian met with Young People's Coordinator at Saltney Youth Centre

## **Consultation Responses:**

### **Hope**

- Written responses received from one primary school at Hope and from Castell Alun High School.
- Expression of interest received from Hope Community Council
- Expression of interest received from Friends of Hope Library community group
- Written responses received from ward member representing Hope
- Three additional written responses were received from residents of Hope

### **Mynydd Isa**

- Expression of interest received from Caffi Isa Community Interest Company
- Written responses received from two ward members representing Mynydd Isa
- Five additional written responses, and one telephone call were received from residents of Mynydd Isa.

## **Saltney**

- Written response received from one member of Saltney Town Council
- Written response received from ward member for Saltney Mold Junction
- Written response received from Saltney Town Council

## **What people told us ...**

### **Hope**

Responses were received from the ward member, individuals, the primary school, the High School, the 'Friends of Hope Library' and the Community Council all communicating a wish to retain some local library provision in the community.

The High School had been working together with officers and with the local member for Hope over the summer, to integrate the school and public libraries to sustain the service. This had been achieved by November. Some members of the community were concerned that this had happened prior to consultation and that it may limit the options for the community to transfer the library service to the community. The Friends of Hope Library group met with the school who were able to reassure the group that they would support the community use of the library and continue to finance the building and allow the community the use of the school Library Management System.

A major concern was access to the council's library book stock and request system. The group were reassured that residents could access the online catalogue to request books which could be collected from the mobile library, or any library within Flintshire's network of 'hub libraries'.

Other concerns expressed were about the ability to be able to provide up to date books and to refresh the collection in a community run library; and that resources for young children would need to be provided as these would not be available in a High School library.

The ward member for Hope did not support a Community Asset Transfer for the library. He felt that the council should continue to fund some opening hours staffed by the council's library service during the 12 weeks of the year that the school is closed, with the school opening to the public for the 40 weeks a year that the school is open.

### **Mynydd Isa**

Residents expressed concern over the possible closure of the library and had similar queries to Hope residents as to how residents could still access the library network

and utilise the request system. Other concerns were about the funding of a community run library and how volunteers could be helped to run it.

Support was expressed for the local Community Interest Company who proposed to run the library as part of the Caffi Isa initiative.

### **Saltney**

The members of the Town Council expressed concern that the library was no longer sustainable and proposed to discuss options for running a community library from another community building. Members asked for information on running a library without a management system, and what arrangements FCC proposed to put in place to mitigate the cessation of the service. Mobile stops were suggested.

A formal response was made by Saltney Town council declining to transfer the library to the community as plans were already in place to CAT the youth and community centres and it was felt that no other suitable building was available.

The ward member for Saltney Mold Junction requested that the library was kept open for a further 12 months to enable the Town Council to investigate the possibility of a transfer of the library once CATs had taken place for the community centre and youth club. The ward member for Saltney Stonebridge also requested an extension of service after the proposed closure/transfer date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. This was also to allow time for a CAT of the Community and youth centres to be completed.

### **Next steps**

The outcomes of this consultation will be presented to the Cabinet of the Council in January 2016.

Whatever decisions are taken by cabinet will inform further work which may take place with communities to implement these decisions in the best way possible.

# **Annex 1. Consultation document**

## **Flintshire County Council**

### **Library Services Consultation**

#### **In relation to the Feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer of Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney Libraries**

#### **1. Context**

- 1.1 During 2014/15 Town and Community Councils have been invited to express an interest in taking over council assets in their communities, libraries are included in the list of assets.
- 1.2 The Medium Term Plan for Libraries, agreed by the Council in 2015, to meet the anticipated savings of 30-50% by 2018, includes the proposal to have full Community Asset transfer at Hope, Mynydd Isa and Saltney. It was agreed that consultation would take place during the Summer and Autumn of 2015. Councillors will consider all feedback received when making their final decision on whether a Community Asset Transfer is possible or what else might be done in light of the conclusion in the Medium Term Libraries plan that future Council provision of services is no longer a sustainable option for these libraries.
- 1.3 In some of these areas discussions have already started with interested parties. However prior to a final Council decision this formal consultation process will now ask Town and Community Councils, Schools and Library users for their views on whether there is interest in a Community Asset Transfer of their library to the community.

#### **2. Background Information about Libraries and Community Asset Transfer**

- 2.1 Through a Community Asset Transfer Flintshire Council is aiming to work with communities to try and sustain some provision in each community while removing the subsidy the Council provides to the library. While no ongoing funding will be available from the Council both one off capital support and one off revenue funding could potentially be made available depending on the requirements of the Business Plan put forward by the community.
- 2.2 The costs to the Council of running a library
  - i) Staff – front line staff (library assistants) and managers

- ii) Premises costs
- iii) Resources – books, newspapers
- iv) Network and infrastructure: library management system and bibliographical services, online catalogue and online resources (ebooks etc), request system, delivery system and public access IT.
- v) Central support costs: finance, HR, IT, legal

### 2.3 What a Community Library might look like

#### i) Community run library

This is the most widely adopted model. This option involves

- the community taking over the library building or providing a community owned building/venue.
- the bookstock, and public access IT facilities are gifted to the community and in some cases fixtures and fittings, shelving and furniture
- the library is run for the community by volunteers

#### ii) Community funded library

A more expensive model which involves

- the community taking over the library building or providing a community owned building/venue.
- the community buying in the staffing, bookstock and infrastructure (including an element of the support costs) from the council.

## 3. How groups can be supported through a Community Asset Transfer?

3.1 The first step is to put forward your ideas in response to this consultation.

3.2 The library service will then work with community groups supporting them through the development of the proposal including submitting a business plan.

3.3 The final Business Plan for the schemes will go through the Community Asset Transfer scheme and organisations developing proposals will be eligible for support from Flintshire Local Voluntary Council under this scheme.

3.4 For a Community Asset Transfer to be considered feasible it must be in a position to be up and running by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

## 4. Your Response

4.1 The final deadline for your response is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

4.2 We are happy to meet with your group before the consultation closing date to talk through any more detailed information you may need.

4.2 Your response should include the following:

- A view on whether a Community Asset Transfer is feasible in your area;
- Who will be involved in developing the proposal with support from the



Council;

- Initial ideas about how you will achieve this by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016;
- Any other options you have for sustaining library provision in your area.

You are invited to respond in writing to Pennie Corbett, Principal Libraries & Arts Officer by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015**.

**Contact information:** Pennie Corbett, Principal Libraries & Arts Officer  
Organisational Change, Flintshire County Council  
Leisure & Libraries Head Office, First Floor  
Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester Road West,  
Queensferry, Flintshire, CH5 1SA.  
e-mail: [pennie.corbett@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:pennie.corbett@flintshire.gov.uk)