

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 13 JULY 2016

FUTURE PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Summary

1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Localism and Communities and the Head of Service for Communities have been invited to the meeting to discuss the responses to the County Council's engagement process on the proposals around the reduction of public library opening hours and in turn, the reduction in front line staffing hours.

Background

2. At its meeting on 25 May 2016, the Panel discussed the proposals to reduce library opening hours by 76.5hrs in total across the county (excluding The Hive) and agreed that a further discussion would take place when the analysis of the public engagement process was available.

3. The Panel were keen to ensure that:

- The proposals reflected the way in which libraries were currently used with online facilities available as required.
- Opening and closing times of the libraries reflected the local need and also took into account those service users with working patterns which precluded them from accessing a library between 9am-5pm.
- Other types of usage were considered - libraries weren't only used for borrowing books, they were used for other activities eg studying or accessing a computer.
- Resident's views were listened to and taken into account.

4. The Libraries 'Decisions Document' setting out way forward on Library opening hours is attached at Appendix 1 and the Summary of Customer feedback on opening hours changes is attached at Appendix 2.

Purpose of the Meeting

4. The Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel is asked to:
- Consider the information before them;
 - Determine whether it would wish to carry out any further scrutiny; and

- Agree whether it would wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Localism.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Libraries 'Decisions Document' setting out way forward on Library opening hours

Appendix 2 - Summary of Customer feedback on opening hours

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763, Kidderminster (01562) 822511 or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Points for this report

Neil Anderson, Head of Communities/Carol Brown Service Improvement Manager Libraries, 01905 846 580 nanderson1@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)