

COUNCIL

14 SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

Adult Social Care - Local Account 2022-23

1. Adult Social Care is required to publish an annual Local Account. The account is a summary of activity, setting out the Council's priorities, showing how the Council has improved, where the Council needs to do better and most importantly, includes feedback from people who use the Council's services. The report covers the last financial year, states how the Council has performed as a provider and commissioner. It includes future developments within the wider People Directorate, setting out the Directorates priorities and the development of the Adult Social Care Strategy, that promotes independence and supports positive outcomes for users of adult social care.

2. Adult Social Care is a significant area of spend and managing future growing demand will be achieved through developing our Adult Front Door, focusing on prevention opportunities such as Assistive Technology, supported housing options, and reablement to promote independence. The Council continues to work with its partners to provide system solutions for health and social care, aligning to the health and wellbeing priority within the Corporate Plan and meeting the statutory duties set out in the Care Act 2014 and other relevant legislation in readiness for our up-and-coming Care Quality Commission assessment regime. Cabinet has endorsed the improvements Adult Social Care have made in 2022/2023.

Relocation of Redditch Library - Public Consultation Results

3. In June 2021 Redditch secured a historic investment of £15.6 million through the Town Deal which will help fund ambitious new projects for the town. The re-development of the current Redditch Library site was one of three priority projects to be funded by the Town Deal.

4. Redditch Borough Council approached Worcestershire County Council to request the Redditch Library Service be moved from its current location, into a new Community Hub at Redditch Town Hall, to free up the space for Development of Redditch Town Centre. Cabinet has noted the proposals for re-locating Redditch Library as part of Redditch's Town Deal Plan.

5. A public consultation to understand residents' and library users' opinions, and the impact of a possible relocation of the library service in Redditch was carried out by the County Council between 7 November 2022 and 24 February 2023. There were a total of 1,467 responses to the survey. Two public meetings were also held as part of the consultation. Just over 100 people attended these meetings. Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the new location for Redditch library being the Town Hall. 72.3% of respondents said that they disagreed to some extent. The most

common themes given by respondents in relation to the proposed new location for the library were that the proposed location for the new library is not as good, there will be a reduction in the facilities offered by the new location, and the relocation will result in a reduction in the size of the new library. Cabinet has noted the findings from the public consultation as outlined in the report.

6. Work has been undertaken to address some of the key concerns raised through the consultation and these are also accounted for in the Equality Impact Assessment. Cabinet has noted the suggested solutions for mitigating the concerns raised within the public consultation as outlined in the report. Cabinet has noted the detail on meeting the specific commercial, operational and collaboration requirements set out by the County Council.

7. The OSPB (and the Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel) have scrutinised the proposal to relocate Redditch Library and concluded that there is no compelling evidence that the proposal would result in any deterioration of the library service or its quality. The OSPB therefore believed that the Cabinet has all the information it needs to make an informed decision. Cabinet has noted the feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board meeting on the 26 June 2023.

8. Cabinet has approved the recommendation to support the proposal to re-locate the Library Service to the Community Hub at Redditch Town Hall and authorised the Strategic Director for People and Strategic Director for Commercial and Change in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Corporate Services and Communication to finalise the lease agreement(s) and plans to relocate the library service.

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20 July 2023:
[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 20th July, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)