

Cabinet

Tuesday 13 June 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor Bowyer, in the Chair.

Councillor Mrs Beer, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer, Mrs Bowyer, Darcy, Downie, Jordan, Michael Leaves, Ricketts and Riley.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Nicholson

Also in attendance: Tracey Lee, Chief Executive, Councillor Bowie, Dawn Aunger – Interim Joint Strategic Director Transformation and Change, Dave Saunders - Strategic Development Manager and Amelia Boulter - Democratic Support Officer.

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 4.16 pm.

Note: The full discussion can be viewed on the webcast of the City Council meeting at www.plymouth.gov.uk. At a future meeting, the Council will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

10. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests.

11. **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held on the 30 May 2017 were approved.

12. **Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

13. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

14. **Plan for Libraries Scrutiny Recommendations and Cabinet Response**

The Leader welcomed Councillor Bowie, Chair of the Library Select Committee and Dave Saunders, Strategic Development Manager. Councillor Bowie read out a response to the review and highlighted that –

- other local authorities had taken different approaches to protect their libraries, such as Devon County Council protecting their libraries through a trust;
- other authorities such as this Conservative administration, have proposed taking a hatchet to the library service reducing libraries in Plymouth 17 to 7;

- the committee expressed significant disappointment on the level of response to the consultation, in particular from children and young people;
- the committee also raised significant concerns over the lack of weighting within the criteria used to assess libraries;
- the criteria used in assessing the Library Service should have identified the libraries best placed to provide equality in the future and by removing them now risks the life chances for the future generations.

The Leader thanked Councillor Bowie but felt that more drastic plans had been put forward by other local authorities with regard to their library closures. Dave Saunders also thanked the scrutiny process and the public responses received which would be considered in the final plan.

Councillor Jordan, Cabinet Member for Culture stated that this issue should have been looked a few years ago and this administration had laid out the position and noted the consultation. This was one of the most in-depth consultations undertaken with at least one Cabinet Member attending each of the meetings to give members of the public the opportunity to meet with the decision makers.

The Leader reported that the final proposals for the Plan for Libraries would be considered at Cabinet on Tuesday 20 June 2017 and then Full Council on Monday 3 July 2017.

Agreed that Cabinet note the contents of the report.