

# REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEM



	<b>Title of Work Programme Item</b>	<b>Library Modernisation</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Responsible Director (s)</b>	Adam Broome (Director for Corporate Services)
<b>3</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Chris Goddard, Acting City Librarian
	<b>Tel No.</b>	Tel ext 5916
<b>4</b>	<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Cllr Peter Smith (Deputy Leader)
<b>5</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Public libraries are changing nationally and internationally at great speed. Many different approaches are being trialled, some with the intention of reducing expenditure and the level of services. The aim of this review is to achieve consensus and cross-party support for the future development of Plymouth's public library service at a time of great change and diverse opinions. Objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain and enhance the citywide network of library buildings and services</li> <li>• To expanding the role of libraries to provide wider Council information and services and those of its key partners, such as the NHS</li> <li>• To establish a blueprint for development which improves literacy, and by improving literacy improves employability</li> <li>• To create a service which remains sustainable in the face of future reductions in expenditure</li> <li>• To embed the "Co-operative Council" concept in the way communities contribute to decision-making about the service</li> <li>• To consider an approach to the use of volunteers which is appropriate to Plymouth and its communities</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Who will benefit?</b>	The scrutiny is an opportunity to consider how we use libraries in the city to the benefit of library users, council departments and partners. This will enhance the consultation process underway and will provide a particular opportunity for members and others to contribute prior to recommendations being made to cabinet/council.

7	<b>Criteria for Choosing Topics (see table at end of document)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High budgetary commitment</li> <li>• Issue consistently identified by Members as key through constituency activity</li> <li>• Public interest issue covered in local media</li> </ul>
8	<b>What will happen if we don't do this review?</b>	There would be no independent scrutiny of the library modernisation programme.
9	<b>What are we going to do?</b>	Task and finish group
10	<b>How are we going to do it? (witnesses, site visits, background information etc.)</b>	Background information Scrutiny reports supplied by officers Potential site visits Witnesses.
11	<b>What we won't do.</b>	N/A
12	<b>Timetable &amp; Key Dates</b>	Task and Finish Group meetings – Sept/Oct 2012 Task and Finish Group report to Customers and Communities OSP – 7 Nov 2012 Task and Finish Group report to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Delegated authority required) Task and Finish Group report to Cabinet – 13 Nov 2012
13	<b>Links to other projects or initiatives / plans</b>	Corporate plan
14	<b>Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel / Membership if Task and Finish Group (to be decided by OSP before submission to OMB)</b>	Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Task and Finish Group – Councillors Casey, Jarvis, Jordan, Martin Leaves and Tuffin
15	<b>Where will the report go? Who will make the final decision</b>	Task and Finish Group report to be considered by Cabinet on 13 November 2012 who will make final decision.
16	<b>Resources (staffing, research, experts, sites visits and so on)</b>	Staffing – particularly from library services Research Witnesses
17	<b>Is this part of a statutory responsibility on the panel?</b>	N/A
18	<b>Should any other panel be involved in this review? If so who and why?</b>	N/A
19	<b>Will the task and finish group benefit from co-opting any person(s) onto the panel.</b>	Yes – Co-opted person to be decided.
20	<b>How does this link to corporate priorities?</b>	The library modernisation programme links directly to Raising Aspiration, Reducing inequalities and Value for Communities.