

REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEM



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

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| | Title of Work Programme Item | Library Modernisation |
| 2 | Responsible Director (s) | Adam Broome (Director for Corporate Services) |
| 3 | Responsible Officer Tel No. | Darin Halifax (Community Cohesion Co-ordinator) Tel ext 5446. |
| 4 | Relevant Cabinet Member(s) | Cllr Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) |
| 5 | Objectives | <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. There is currently a review process taking place looking at library modernisation in Plymouth with the aims and objectives to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance the citywide network of library buildings and services • Expand the role of libraries to provide Council information and services and those of its key partners, such as the NHS • Establish a blueprint for development which improves literacy, and by improving literacy improve employability • Create a service which remains sustainable in the face of future reductions in expenditure • Embed the “Co-operative Council” concept in the way communities contribute to decision-making about the service • Consider an approach to the use of volunteers which is appropriate to Plymouth and its communities. <p>The objectives of the task and finish group is to make its recommendations on how the aims and objectives of the new service could be achieved, with particular emphasis on accessibility for people who do not have a local library and attracting people who do not currently use the service.</p> |

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| 6 | Who will benefit? | <p>The scrutiny is an opportunity to consider how we use libraries in the city to the benefit of library users, council departments and partners. It would also specifically look at why people do not use libraries and what can we do to attract them.</p> <p>The task and finish group will enhance the current review process and will provide a particular opportunity for members and others to make their recommendations to cabinet/council.</p> |
| 7 | Criteria for Choosing Topics (see table at end of document) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High budgetary commitment • Issue consistently identified by Members as key through constituency activity • Public interest issue covered in local media |
| 8 | What will happen if we don't do this review? | There would be no independent scrutiny of the library modernisation programme. |
| 9 | What are we going to do? | Task and finish group |
| 10 | How are we going to do it? (witnesses, site visits, background information etc.) | <p>Background information (to include RIEP report and recommendations on the review of library services in the SW and experiences of other councils that have recently undergone a similar exercise)</p> <p>Scrutiny reports supplied by officers</p> <p>Potential site visits</p> <p>Witnesses.</p> |
| 11 | What we won't do. | The task and finish group will not be an alternative for future community consultation should that need arise. |
| 12 | Timetable & Key Dates | <p>Task and Finish Group meetings – Sept/Oct 2012</p> <p>Task and Finish Group report to Customers and Communities OSP – 7 Nov 2012</p> <p>Task and Finish Group report to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Delegated authority required)</p> <p>Task and Finish Group report to Cabinet – 13 Nov 2012</p> |
| 13 | Links to other projects or initiatives / plans | Corporate plan |
| 14 | Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel / Membership if Task and Finish Group (to be decided by OSP before submission to OMB) | Customers and Communities OSP Task and Finish Group comprising Councillors Casey, Jarvis, Jordan, Martin Leaves and Tuffin. |
| 15 | Where will the report go? Who will make the final decision | Task and Finish Group report to be considered by Cabinet on 13 November 2012 who will make final decision. |
| 16 | Resources (staffing, research, experts, sites visits and so on) | <p>Staffing – particularly from library services</p> <p>Research</p> <p>Witnesses</p> |

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| 17 | Is this part of a statutory responsibility on the panel? | N/A |
| 18 | Should any other panel be involved in this review? If so who and why? | N/A |
| 19 | Will the task and finish group benefit from co-opting any person(s) onto the panel. | Yes – Co-opted person to be decided. |
| 20 | How does this link to corporate priorities? | The library modernisation programme links directly to Raising Aspiration, Reducing inequalities and Value for Communities. |