

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No.
20 MARCH 2015	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Lucia Serluca Cabinet Member for City Centre Management, Culture and Tourism	
Contact Officer(s):	John Harrison, Executive Director of Resources	Tel 452520

NEW DELIVERY MODEL FOR PETERBOROUGH LIBRARY SERVICE: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

R E C O M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : Cllr Lucia Serluca	Deadline date :
<p>For Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To consider the responses received to the second consultation as set out in the report; 2) To approve the future delivery model for the library service in Peterborough. 	

1. LIBRARIES

1.1 LIBRARIES – FINDINGS FROM THE SECOND CONSULTATION

The consultation has run for eight-weeks to the date of the publication of this report on the 20th March 2015.

A large amount of work has been undertaken to reach a wider audience so that we can consider the views of as many residents as possible.

All 20,000 library card users who Vivacity hold email addresses for were sent an email about the consultation. In addition, library friends' groups were asked to complete the questionnaire and an email was sent to the head teachers of all schools in the city to cascade throughout their schools.

To date, the council has received 1847 responses.

Of these:

- 60.3% support the proposal put forward; and
- 39.7% oppose it.

Of the 39.1% that oppose the preferred option 57.6% have elaborated on their opposition to the proposed approach:

- a) 18% have stated a perception of lack of safety during Open+ hours;

- b) 7% have suggested we should close smaller libraries and invest the balance in the larger sites
- c) 29% have suggested that the Council seek to make the overall savings requirement differently – but not specified how
- d) 46% have suggested proposals that are already covered within the preferred option.

In terms of other responses received:

- a) At its meeting on 23rd February, Cabinet determined that the responses received to that date already required some modification to the original proposal.

Specifically, to respond to concerns raised about public safety and safeguarding linked to the Open+ self-service model, Cabinet recommended the deployment of additional staff (to be employed as receptionists) in four libraries (Bretton, Orton, Central and Werrington).

An Open+ assistant post within Bretton will enable all three floors to remain open during Open+ hours and within the two libraries co-located with schools will enable extra cover for children accessing these libraries during Open+ hours.

These changes reduce the overall achievable cost reductions in a full-year from **£350,000** to **£305,000**. The saving in 2015/16 has reduced from **£320,000** to **£250,000** to meet the cost of the four Open+ assistants and delay in implementation. The short-fall will be met from the Council's risk management contingency in 2015 / 2016. In 2016/17 and beyond this will widen the Councils overall budget gap.

- b) Cabinet had already considered the idea of closing the smaller libraries in the city. Cabinet's view was that the benefits of this approach (releasing funding that could be invested in the larger sites) were outweighed by the negatives (significantly limiting access to libraries, especially in areas where the evidence suggests users tend be older and also to walk to their local library);
- c) Cabinet has already considered the requirement for savings from the library service in the round and believes they represent an appropriate reduction given the pressures that exist on other front-line and statutory services and the scale of the challenge the Council has faced to deliver a balanced budget. This is in line with the overall budget consultation, where no alternative proposal were received for libraries.

Comments received through the consultation can be reviewed under Annex 1

2 APPENDICES

There is two appendix to this report:

Annex 1: Public consultation results

Annex 2: proposed library timetable