

Briefing Paper to North Area Committee

25 March 2021

Wards:

 Beverley and Newland
 Orchard Park
 University

Progress Report on the Delivery Plan for the Library Strategy: Building Strong Knowledgeable Communities 2020 – 2030
Briefing Paper of the of Corporate Director for Finance and Transformation

 1. Purpose of the Paper and Summary

- 1.1 To provide North Area Committee with the opportunity to comment on the progress of the Library Strategy Delivery Plan.

 2. Background

- 2.1 Both the Library Service Strategy 2020 - 2030: Building Strong Knowledgeable Communities, and its Delivery Plan were agreed by the Hull Culture and Leisure Board and the Council's Cabinet in 2020.
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- 2.2 The following timetable for reporting progress on the Delivery Plan was agreed by both the HCL Board and HCC Cabinet.

MEETING	FREQUENCY
Hull Culture and Leisure Board	Quarterly or if exceptions require consideration
Cabinet	Annual Report or if exceptions require consideration
Executive Commissioning Committee	Updates to the HCL Business Plan with progress reports and implications for delivery.

The Hull City Council People and Communities Scrutiny Commission have also requested a progress report at their April 2021 meeting.

3. Delivery Plan Progress

3.1 The Delivery Plan can be found at Appendix 1. Two columns have been added to the plan, the first titled 'Update' which provides a short narrative on progress. The final column provides a RAG rating whereby Red (R) indicates progress is behind schedule, Amber (A) means progress is on track and Green (G) indicates an action has been completed.

3.2 There are currently two actions that are Red, these are:

LS 18.4 'Ensure all staff have the skills and knowledge required for marketing and promoting the library offer to all residents.' The planned training will not be completed before the deadline as we have focused training on the implementation of the new IT systems and new processes and procedures introduced as a result of the pandemic. It is proposed this timescale is extended to 31 March 2022.

LS 19.6 'Utilise technology to improve the systems and processes used by Encore Music Service to enable higher demand to be met.' This timescale has not been met as the manager of this service retired late in 2020 with minimum notice. We will progress this as soon as we have recruited a replacement and propose extending the deadline to the end of 2021.

3.3 Six actions are Green and have been completed on, or ahead of schedule, these are LS 5.2, LS 7.1, LS 11.6, LS 12.4, LS 18.5, LS 19.5. It should be noted that whilst the specific actions have been completed work is ongoing in relation to each of them.

3.4 All remaining actions are on course to meet the timescales set, information on progress is included for each action.

4. Issues That May Affect Delivery

4.1 LS 3 and LS 4 take a city-wide approach to planning Library Service provision that reviews the current facilities, considers community need and engages the community at all stages in what future provision will be. It is important to consider provision as a whole to ensure we don't exclude areas from access to services, every change planned will be sense checked using an Equality Impact Assessment.

4.2 There are financial challenges to delivering the ambition of the library Strategy. Hull Culture and Leisure continue to seek additional funding opportunities, this is time consuming and, at the moment, frustrating as we are finding that as one door opens another closes, this is generally a result of the pandemic and will hopefully improve.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Library Service is progressing well with the delivery of the Library Strategy, the two areas where timescales have not been met should be recovered before the end of the year and some actions have been delivered ahead of time and progress is ahead of schedule with others.
- 5.2 Whilst there are risks to delivery of the Strategy it is not currently anticipated these will become major obstacles.
- 5.3 The Delivery Plan sets out actions and timescales for implementing the Library Strategy, the actions specific to the development of community libraries are:
- LS 3 'Create an investment programme that will see community library provision transformed to improve access and encourage participation to help deliver the City's ambitions. Make the best use of community assets, acknowledging when they are not fit for purpose and take action quickly to find solutions, including considering the location and community needs, before investing in buildings.'
- LS 4 'Create a realistic and aspirational 'Community Library Plan' that responds to community need and expresses each community's priorities.'
- 5.4 How these actions will be achieved is set out in the delivery plan on Pages 4 – 7. This work will include the involvement of, and consultation with the Area Committees and residents and is expected to gather pace from April/May 2021 onwards.

Corporate Director for Finance and Transformation

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Officer Interests: None

Background Documents: - None

Appendices: Separate documents

Appendix 1: Library Strategy Delivery Plan