

## **BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **PUBLIC REPORT**

**Report to:** The Leader of the Council Jointly with the  
Corporate Director - Place

**Report of:** Assistant Director  
Neighbourhoods & Communities Division

**Date of Decision:** 12 December 2017

**SUBJECT:** REDIRECTION OF CORPORATE CAPITAL  
RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY  
LIBRARIES STRATEGY

**Key Decision:** No  
**If not in the Forward Plan:** Relevant Forward Plan Ref: N/A  
(please "X" box) Chief Executive approved ☐  
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) O&S Chair approved ☐  
Relevant O&S Chair: Councillor Ian Ward – Leader  
Councillor Mohammed Aikhlaq – Corporate Resources  
& Governance

**Wards affected:** Various

#### **1. Purpose of report:**

- 1.1 To maximise the effectiveness of capital resources previously allocated to West Heath Library in delivering the Community Library Strategy as set out in the Cabinet Report 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017.
- 1.2 This proposed investment (as set out in paragraph 5.5) will have the benefit of extending the life of the community libraries building portfolio and support the Library Services by improving their service delivery offer to the local community and attract new users.

#### **2. Decision(s) recommended:**

That the Leader of the Council Jointly with the Corporate Director - Place

- 2.1 Approve the redirection of £456k of corporate resources from West Heath Library to support the Community Libraries Strategy as detailed in paragraph.5.5.
- 2.2 To note that these works will be procured in accordance with the Procurement Governance Arrangements and orders for works will be placed under Chief Officer delegation.

**Lead Contact Officer(s):** Chris Jordan  
Assistant Director Neighbourhoods & Communities Division  
The Place Directorate

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### **3. Consultation**

#### **3.1 Internal**

The Interim Chief Finance Officer has been consulted as has the Deputy Leader and both are supportive of this proposal going forward. An extensive consultation exercise was undertaken with Ward and Town Council elected members as part of the process to deliver the new 'Community Library Service Tiered Delivery Model'. This proposal supports the delivery of that model. Officers from Legal and Governance and City Finance have been involved in the preparation of this report. Library staff are being consulted on the operational impacts of the proposals as they are developed.

#### **3.2 External**

Engagement with Trade Union representatives will be progressed as the schemes are developed.

### **4. Compliance Issues:**

#### **4.1 Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?**

Libraries have a key role to offer in supporting three of the Council priorities for Children, Jobs & Skills and Health, set out in the Vision and Forward Plan approved by Cabinet in May 2017. In February 2017 a report entitled Community Library Service Tiered Delivery model was agreed by Cabinet. This set out the strategy for delivering our community library service going forward and identified which libraries would fall into which Tier of delivery some of which would require investment in the transformation process.

#### **4.2 Financial Implications (Will decisions be carried out within existing finance and Resources?)**

A joint Strategic Directors report to the Cabinet Member Finance was approved on the 31st March 2012 to secure £545k funded by Corporate Capital Resources from the Local Improvement Budget for the replacement of the West Heath Library (CA -02355-03). £23k was used to demolish West Heath Library following its closure in February 2014 due to its poor state of repair which had become a severe health and safety risk to the staff and service users. Also £67k was expended in January 2016 replacing the roof and rebuilding the bell tower at Kings Norton Library.

However since the original budget approval the library model has changed. A Cabinet report of the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 agreed that West Heath Library would not be rebuilt but instead be re-provided for within Oddingley Hall. This proposal requests that the funding is redirected to support the Community Library Tiered Delivery Model and specifically to invest the funding in the buildings and ICT infrastructure of the Community Libraries as detailed in paragraph.5.5. The libraries identified in this report for capital investment all have revenue funding allocated to them.

#### **4.3 Legal Implications**

The Council has a statutory duty pursuant to the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient Library service' to all those seeking to make use of it. This duty is discharged through a combination of services including supporting the Community Libraries.

#### Data Protection

The requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and Human Rights Act 1998 have been taken into consideration in terms of the processing, management and sharing of data involved in these proposals. The decision has no data protection implications

#### 4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

A full Equalities analysis was undertaken on the proposals contained within the cabinet report of February 2017 (ref EA001361) and these are reattached and applicable to this proposal (Appendix 1).

#### **5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:**

- 5.1 A report on the Community Library Service Tiered Delivery Model was agreed by cabinet in February 2017. The new model was required in order to deliver a significant level of savings. This report set out which sites would be required going forward and which Tier (or type) of delivery model would be adopted for those that remained.
- 5.2 The Place Capital Programme has a budget of £456,099 that was originally earmarked for the re-build of West Heath Library. The cabinet report of February 2017 agreed that West Heath Library would not be rebuilt and instead the service would be delivered from a refurbished Oddingley Hall at a cost of £150,000.
- 5.3 The report to Cabinet in February highlighted the fact that “Securing investment to modernise the library offer remains a priority and will be needed within the second phase of transformational change” and it remains the case that resources to invest both in building maintenance and modernisation of the service are not at the required levels. It is therefore essential that maximum impact is delivered from the capital resource that remains.
- 5.4 The projects identified in paragraph 5.5 are the first tranche of priorities which will enable the buildings to be brought up to a standard whereby health and safety issues can be addressed and the buildings brought back to a reasonable state of repair so they can continue to offer a good standard of service to their users. Individual approval reports for each of the priorities listed in paragraph 5.5 will be presented to Chief Officers seeking permission to place orders for work/replacement equipment in due course as the proposals are developed. Works will be procured in accordance with the Procurement Governance Arrangements.

## 5.5

Project	Amount – up to
Self service equipment - Investment to ensure that non-supported self service (in 12 libraries) is replaced. The existing equipment in these libraries has now exceeded its useful life and repairs are no longer financially viable.	£50,000
Refurbishment of Oddingley Hall to accommodate a Tier 3 Library to replace the service formerly delivered from West Heath Library prior to its closure and subsequent demolition.	£150,000
Refurbish following flood damage and undertake rmodernisation of Hall Green Library. This library suffered severe flood damage due to a burst pipe. Rather than just repair the damage there is an opportunity to modernise this dated library which has had minimal investment spent on the internal fabric and bring it up to the standard of a 21 <sup>st</sup> century library . The priority is to upgrade the public areas to include reconfiguration of space and internal refurbishment including replacement furniture and equipment.	£71,000
In response to public consultation support the development of a sustainable business plan by undertaking refurbishment and reconfiguring works at Sutton Coldfield Library to enable it to operate independently on one floor (first floor) facilitating the release of the second floor for sole use by a prospective tenant on a 10+ year lease generating income to support the operational running costs of the building. This will also allow part of the first floor to be converted to a café/play space to be operated by a third party on a 5 year license bringing in a one off annual contribution..	£120,000
A contribution towards essential health and safety works (roof, boiler) at Stirchley Library as part of a partnership with the Friends of Stirchley Library ( to match fund s106 funding).	£30,000
Fund the investment needed in establishing Tier 3 sites at Aston and Bartley Green to refurbish and reconfigure space.	£20,000
Refurbish Northfield Bell Tower to ensure structural stability to the building envelope. The structural integrity of the building envelope needs to be addressed before it becomes a serious health and safety issue that could impact on the public should the building fail.	£15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£456,000</b>

- 5.6 This above allocation does not address all the priorities identified at libraries and funding will need to be identified for future tranches. It is proposed that condition surveys are carried out to identify a comprehensive list of works required on the library buildings portfolio.

**6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):**

- 6.1 Do nothing – this would not address the financial need to invest in the Community Libraries property portfolio ensuring buildings are structurally safe and fit the criteria for a 21<sup>st</sup> century modern library facility.

**7. Reasons for Decision(s):**

- 7.1 To redirect corporate capital resources in line with the 'Community Libraries Tiered Delivery Model'.
- 7.2 To support the Council's strategic priorities as stated in paragraph 4.1

**Signatures**

**Date**

Cabinet Member

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Councillor Ian Ward, Leader of the Council

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Chief Officer

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Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director - Place

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**List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:**

Cabinet Report 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Community Library Service Tiered Delivery Model.

**List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):**

1. Equality Assessment