

Duncan Crow

Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and
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Andrew Barrett-Miles
Chairman, Environment, Communities
and Fire Select Committee

24 October 2019

Via Email

Dear Andrew,

Review of Library Offer

As the new Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities I am responding to the Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee recommendations agreed at the meeting on 20 September 2019.

I understand that the recommendations were:

The Committee; Supports the proposal to remove the mobile library service providing sufficient mitigation is put in place; suggests that more is done to publicise the Home Service and supports the proposal for 6pm closures but would like reassurance that this will not affect the Community Hubs strategy.

In response, I advise that all customers of the mobile library service have been informed and the service has been working hard to encourage customers to use their local static library if possible but will hire a van and collect books from individuals if necessary.

There are also a number of library services, introduced in recent years, available that the service has been promoting to support those who are not able to travel:

- Home Library Direct (where a volunteer is matched with a customer and they deliver and collect books for them – a sort of “reading friend”)
- Digital library Plus (where we demonstrate and lend a Tablet for those wish to access eBooks)
- Select and Collect (where a residential home or other community location can borrow a larger collection of books to serve a small number of residents)
- Friends and Family ticket (allowing people to borrow and return for others incurring no fines)

As you will be aware there is now an open consultation on both the Mobile Library Service and Evening Opening Hours on the Council’s website which is open until 13 November. The result of the consultation will help inform my decision on the Library Offer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Crow". The letter "D" is large and capital, followed by a period and the name "Crow" in a cursive script.

Duncan Crow
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