

Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee
13th March 2019
Community Hubs and plans for Worthing Library
Report by Director of Communities

The focus for scrutiny is:

- To understand the background of the Community Hubs programme as an element of the council's transformation.
- To consider the Strategic Principles which set the framework for the community hubs programme.
- To review the resident and member engagement and consultation undertaken for the first community hub in Worthing Library
- To consider the financial implications particularly regarding the capital budget and the amount required to make Worthing an effective prototype.

The Committee will also wish to consider what the proposal will mean for residents and communities and how any changes will affect workforce and both internal and partner organisations.

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of the Council's commitment to the building of stronger communities a programme to 'unlock the power of community' has been developed as part of the Council's transformation agenda.
- 1.2 A component of this approach is the more effective utilisation of the council's front facing buildings to promote and enable greater community resilience. This builds on the role of libraries as focal points for community activity in localities.
- 1.3 To develop the approach a set of strategic principles which will be used to frame the development of the programme have been

agreed by the Cabinet Member for Stronger and Safer Communities. (Decision Report Appendix 1)

- 1.4 The report as above also includes the implementation of a Community Hub in Worthing library as the first hub, to test the concept and create a showcase site.
- 1.4 Public engagement has been undertaken at Worthing to test local views as to the proposal to remodel the Library and integrate services currently provided in the Crescent Road Children and Family Centre, Registration Services from the Borough Council offices and the Find it Out Services in Marine Parade. A presentation of the community feedback is attached. (Appendix 3)
- 1.5 A detailed Business Case for the programme is being developed. This is being regularly revised and the current strategic version is attached (Appendix 2).
- 1.6 Member involvement has been via the establishment of a Member led Project Board which has met four times to date and additional consultation has been ongoing with the Cabinet Members for Safer, Stronger Communities and Children & Young People.
- 1.7 In addition, in relation to the Worthing showcase Community Hub there has been ongoing consultation with the local Worthing Borough members.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the Business Case prior to final Transformation Board approval on 25th March 2019.

3. Resources

- 3.1 The business case provides detail on the financial implications of the proposal and how these fit with budget planning. Members may wish to comment on these elements of the proposal.

4. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee

Given its strategic remit, the Committee is invited to focus on the following areas:

- The strategic principles of the programme
- Benefits realisation
- The rationale for using this project to sustain services in communities, rationalise physical assets and optimise the workforce
- Corporate and service risk management linked to the proposal
- Financial implications and plans to manage
- The potential impact on residents and service users (report of Worthing Engagement attached as Background Paper)
- Plans for re-provision of library services during any planned closure of the library building in Worthing.
- Future development of the project
- How the Community Hubs project aligns with the review and redesign of the Council's Early Help offer.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Cabinet Decision Report
Appendix 2	Strategic Business Case
Appendix 3	Report on Worthing public engagement

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