

## **Report to the Cabinet**

Meeting to be held on Monday, 26 September 2016

### **Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Electoral Division affected: None;
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### **Scrutiny Committee Request to Reconsider a Decision - Property Strategy**

Contact for further information:

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#### **Executive Summary**

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 22 September 2016, the Committee resolved that the decision made by the Cabinet on 8 September 2016 in relation to the Property Strategy be "Called In". This means that the Cabinet are asked to reconsider the decision.

The reasons given by the Scrutiny Committee for asking Cabinet to reconsider were:

"Both the consultation and the Cabinet decision were based on incorrect financial information and the decision does not meet the Council's own priorities to support the needs of the residents of Lancashire, particularly the more deprived communities.

The Scrutiny Committee also sought assurances that the methodology was applied consistently and fairly across Lancashire"

#### **Recommendation**

That Cabinet consider the request and the reasons and decide whether to affirm, amend or rescind the original decision made on 8 September 2016 in relation to the Property Strategy.

#### **Background and Advice**

On 8 September 2016, Cabinet considered a report on the Property Strategy – Responses to Consultation, and made the following decision:

That

- i. the outcomes of the consultation as set out in the report be noted.
- ii. the Planning and Needs Assessment for the Library Service set out at Appendix "I" be approved as the basis of determining the level of provision for the Council's statutory library service.
- iii. the Library Strategy at Appendix "H" be approved.
- iv. the proposed investment in the Mobile Library Service set out in the report be approved.
- v. the proposed model for an "Independent Community Library Offer" as set out in the report be endorsed on the basis that these community libraries are **in addition to** the provision made by the Council to satisfy section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.
- vi. the exploration of the development of alternative options for the future delivery of library services be continued, including, but not limited to, the extended use of volunteers and the development of a potential model which would allow the Library Service to be run independently of the Council as described in the report.
- vii. the revised proposals for the implementation of the Property Strategy set out at Appendix "B" be approved
- viii. a consultation on the proposal to discontinue use of Upholland Children's Centre, St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School, on the basis set out in the report be agreed.
- ix. the buildings identified in Appendix "B" as not to be retained for future use are declared surplus to requirements and that the services delivered from them will be discontinued on the basis of the timeline set out at Appendix "P".
- x. officers be instructed to consider the viability of the expressions of interest received in relation to the transfer of Council premises as set out in Appendix "B" and to bring back a further report to the next meeting of Cabinet for consideration.
- xi. the request from the Schools Forum for transition funding for schools with attached children's centres and that this will be the subject of future discussions between officers and the Schools Forum be noted.

Following the meeting, seven County Councillors requested that a special meeting of the Scrutiny Committee be held to consider whether the decision should be subject to "Call In", ie a request for the Cabinet to reconsider the decision.

A special meeting of the Scrutiny Committee was held on 22 September 2016, at which the Committee resolved that the decision should be Called In, and the Cabinet be asked to reconsider. The reasons given by the Committee were that:

"Both the consultation and the Cabinet decision were based on incorrect financial information and the decision does not meet the Council's own priorities to support the needs of the residents of Lancashire, particularly the more deprived communities.

The Scrutiny Committee also sought assurances that the methodology was applied consistently and fairly across Lancashire"

In accordance with Standing Orders, Cabinet is now required to consider that decision and decide whether to affirm, amend or rescind its original decision.

The outcome of the cabinet's reconsideration will be the final step in the process, as decisions can be "called in" once only.

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

There are no significant risk management implications in this report. The implications of the original decision are set out in the report to ESC and Cabinet, available here:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=122&MId=5414&Ver=4>

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A