

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage
Date:	19 September 2019
Title:	Update on Library Strategy 2016–2020 and Draft Strategy 2020–2025
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage on the progress made on delivering the existing Library Strategy and to seek endorsement for the draft new Strategy.

Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage;
 - i) Notes the progress made with the Library Strategy 2016–2020
 - ii) Endorses the progress made on the new draft Strategy 2020–2025.

Executive Summary

3. This report sets out the progress made on delivering the existing Library Strategy and seeks endorsement from the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage for the draft new Strategy 2020–2025.

Current Library Strategy 2016 - 2020

4. The current Library Strategy was approved on 18 April 2016 ([Library Service Transformation Strategy to 2020](#)) and the Library Service is currently in the fourth year of this Strategy. The majority of actions contained within the Strategy are either complete or in delivery and significant progress has also been made to modernise and transform the Service since 2016.
5. Further details on the progress made with the current Strategy are summarised in Appendix 1.

New Draft Strategy 2020 – 2025

5. On 3 September 2018, the Culture and Communities Select Committee set up a Library Task and Finish Group to work with officers to develop a new Library Strategy 2020 – 2025. Within this period, further significant budget reductions are anticipated, and this will require the County Council to think creatively about what library customers will want from the Library Service in the future. Under the Chairmanship of Councillor Mrs McNair Scott, the Task and Finish Group has met five times, four of which have been in different libraries around Hampshire.
6. The last meeting of the Task and Finish Group was on 26 June at Aldershot Library where the main focus of the meeting was on the emerging draft Strategy 2020–2025. The work to date is attached as a presentation in Appendix 2 and this will be presented to the Culture and Communities Select Committee at its meeting on the 19 September.
7. It is proposed that the draft Strategy 2020–2025 will form the basis of the Phase II public consultation which, it is anticipated, will start later in 2019, after Full Council on 7 November.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

For the Equalities Impact Assessment for the 2021 Transformation Proposals, please refer to the EIA attached to the accompanying T21 Savings Proposals Report to the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage. Additional EIAs for the future Strategy to 2025 will be developed, as necessary, going forward.