

Cabinet Response to the Overview and Scrutiny Impact of Library Service Changes Task Group

Introduction

At the Cabinet meeting on 15th July 2021, consideration was given to the report of the Impact of Library Service Changes Task Group. The Leader welcomed Councillor S. Colella, as Chairman of the Task Group, to the meeting and thanked him for being present to provide clarification on any matters raised by Cabinet Members. Councillor Colella outlined the work which had been undertaken by the Task Group and thanked Members and officers for their contributions.

The Cabinet then discussed and considered each of the recommendations of the Task Group in detail.

Response to recommendations

Please find below responses to the recommendations contained within the scrutiny report:

Recommendation 1

That all Members continue to receive up to date information in relation to any proposed changes to libraries in their Wards.

Cabinet Response

It was noted that this recommendation would represent continuation of existing practice as Worcestershire County Council currently provide updates to Members in relation to any proposed library changes in their wards.

This recommendation was rejected.

Recommendation 2

That all Members be consulted when any proposed changes are to be made to the Strategic Libraries in the District.

Cabinet Response

It is a statutory process that is followed by Worcestershire County Council to inform local residents when any proposed changes are made to strategic libraries in the District. Therefore, in terms of consulting with residents about any such changes, Members will continue to be consulted in their capacity as local residents.

This recommendation was rejected.

Recommendation 3

That a publicity campaign be undertaken to promote the facilities available at Libraries.

Cabinet Response

This recommendation could be brought to the attention of Worcestershire County Council however Bromsgrove District Council could not make this decision on behalf of the County Council whether they should undertake a publicity campaign.

This recommendation was rejected.

Recommendation 4

That Worcestershire County Council ensure that any grant funding received is distributed to Libraries accordingly.

Cabinet Response

As Worcestershire County Council receive the funding its distribution or allocation needs to be determined by Worcestershire County Council and Bromsgrove District Council could not influence the matter.

This recommendation was rejected.

Councillor P. Thomas – Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Cultural Services and Community Safety