

**Report to:** Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 15 July 2016

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Library opening hours proposals and Libraries' Transformation Programme update

**Purpose:** To provide the Committee with an opportunity to comment on the proposals for revised library opening hours following the public consultation.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Consider the results of the 12 week public consultation, the Rationale and Impact Assessment, the full Equalities Impact Assessment, and the conclusions and the recommendations as set out in appendix 1; and
  - 2) Make any comments to assist Cabinet when considering the proposals for changes to library opening hours.
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## **1 Background**

1.1 In December 2015 Cabinet approved the proposed Libraries' Transformation Programme (LTP), including an Internal Review of the Library and Information Service (LIS) and the development of the Libraries' Strategic Commissioning Strategy (SCS). Cabinet also agreed to the public consultation on proposed changes to library opening hours.

1.2 A review board of the Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee has previously considered the Libraries' Transformation Programme. The comments and recommendations made by the review board to Cabinet and a copy of the 15 December 2015 Cabinet report can be found on the Council's website at:

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=2273&Ver=4>

1.3 A further report is to be presented to Cabinet on the 19 July 2016 with proposals for changes to library opening hours, which takes into account the results of the public consultation. A copy of the Cabinet report, appendices, the full Consultation Analysis Report and the full Equalities Impact Assessment will form appendix 1 of this report and will be sent as a 'to follow' item to the Committee when the Cabinet meeting papers are published.

## **2 Supporting information**

2.1 The Opening Hours Consultation ran from 11 January to 3 April 2016. The consultation was promoted widely to registered library users, and to residents more generally. In total 2,970 people replied to the consultation. The consultation results are summarised in appendix 1, which also includes a full analysis of the consultation results and a full equality impact assessment, along with the final opening hours proposals for all libraries.

## **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The Committee has previously expressed an interest in the outcome of the public consultation on library opening hours. A summary of the consultation results is provided for the Committee's consideration in appendix 1 (Cabinet report).

3.2 The Committee is recommended to consider the results of the 12 week public consultation and to provide any comments to assist Cabinet when they consider the proposals for changes to library opening hours.

**RUPERT CLUBB**

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LOCAL MEMBERS

ALL

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Libraries' Transformation Programme, Cabinet Report and Appendices, 15 December 2015