

# Report of the Strategic Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

V

---

## Subject:

COMMUNITY MANAGED LIBRARIES IN BRADFORD SOUTH

## Summary statement:

This report gives an update on progress on moving three libraries in Bradford South, which include Great Horton, Holme Wood and Queensbury from direct Council staff management to Community Managed Libraries.

---

Steve Hartley  
Strategic Director of Environment and Sport

**Portfolio:**  
**Environment Sport and Culture**

Report Contact: Phil Barker  
Phone: (01274) 432616  
E-mail: [phil.barker@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:phil.barker@bradford.gov.uk)

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Regeneration and Economy**



## 1. SUMMARY

This report gives an update on progress on moving three libraries in Bradford South – Great Horton, Holme Wood and Queensbury – from direct Council staff management to Community Managed Libraries supported by volunteer management.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. 24 libraries are currently Council managed. The Council in their budget proposals for 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 agreed to withdraw from directly managing all but 10 libraries on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 and to operate 2 libraries with a mixture of paid staff and volunteers (hybrids). The remaining 13 libraries are to operate through a community managed model.
- 2.2 In Bradford South, two libraries, Wibsey and Wyke, will remain Council managed. Great Horton, Holme Wood and Queensbury will move to community management.
- 2.3 The library service have been engaging with the communities affected since the budget proposal was agreed, supplying information about the 'offer' to communities and asking for expressions of interest from potential volunteers.
- 2.4 Uptake in Bradford South has been varied. Working alongside officers from the Neighbourhood team the aim is to prioritise those libraries where little interest has been shown to increase the level of interest in volunteer management, and to identify or help to create an accountable body for each venue by February 2017 at the latest, which allows time to train volunteers to be up and running by April 2017.

## 3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The 'offer' from the Council is for the Council to continue to pay running costs and rates. The community managed libraries will continue to be part of the Bradford Libraries network. There will be continued indirect staff support, stock purchase and inclusion in national initiatives.
- 3.2 A petition to consider Holme Wood Library as a 'hybrid' (mixture of paid staff and volunteers) was referred to Executive Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The decision taken was that the Executive reaffirmed the previous decision to introduce Community Managed Libraries at the locations originally agreed and requested officers to engage with representatives of Holme Wood to attract volunteers and develop a locally agreed solution within the financial envelope provided through the process.



## **4 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

The significant level of savings required for the library service in financial year 2017-18 will require the development and implementation of community managed libraries to meet the budget moving forward.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

Risk of library closures should volunteer management not be an option for the three communities.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

Local Authorities are required to provide a comprehensive and efficient service through the provision of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

An initial Equalities Impact Assessment was produced prior to the budget setting process.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The introduction of more community managed libraries will allow a more sustainable library network within the finances of the service.

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

No issues anticipated.

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

No issues anticipated.

### **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

No issues anticipated.

### **7.6 TRADE UNION**

There is ongoing consultation on the impact of community managed libraries.

### **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

Great Horton ward, Tong ward and Queensbury ward.



## **7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The Area Committee's Action Plan includes the following actions that are relevant to this report, which are:

### **7.8.1 Great Horton ward plan priority:**

- 3.1 Encourage residents to take up volunteering opportunities
- 4.4 Engage with residents to explore options to maintain library provision in Great Horton.

### **7.8.2 Queensbury ward plan priority:**

- 3.3 Encourage residents to take up volunteering opportunities
- 4.3 Engage with residents to explore options to maintain library provision in Queensbury.

### **7.8.3 Tong ward plan priority:**

- 3.4 Encourage residents to take up volunteering opportunities
- 3.5 Engage with Holme Wood residents to explore options to maintain Holme Wood Library.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

## **9. OPTIONS**

That the Library service continue to work alongside Neighbourhood teams and in conjunction with Ward Members to prioritise the three communities in Bradford South to facilitate future volunteer management of Great Horton, Holme Wood and Queensbury libraries.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Bradford South Area Committee note, and consider the content of this report.

## **11. APPENDICES**

None

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

