

ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER 2016

Present: County Councillor McKerlich(Chairperson)
County Councillors Dilwar Ali, Howells, Hyde, Simmons and Stubbs

22 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received

23 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

24 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Economy and Culture Committee hold on 6 October were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

25 : LIBRARIES PERFORMANCE

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member) Sarah McGill (Director – Communities, Housing and Customer Services) and Isabelle Bignall (Assistant Director for Communities and Customer Services) and Nicola Richards (Lead Libraries Officer) to the meeting.

Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report 2015 – 16

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he said that wanted to highlight that a large number of the library standards have been achieved however, the same was not the case in respect of WPLSQI9, where the target was only partially met. The set range which had been established by Welsh Government had been exceeded and will be discussed further with them.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report 2015-16

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members asked about the target spend on children's book and that it would appear that the target is recorded as partially met because the target is being exceeded. Officers advised that representations are to be made to Welsh Government to change the framework.
- Members queried the results recorded about meeting the supply of requests (PI12) and requested information as to why it had taken as long as it had to discover the problem. Officers advised that there was a significant change in processes with the move to Electronic Data Change. Customers were slow to raise concerns, but it was resolved as soon as discovered.

- Members asked whether officers were confident that there were a range of suitable reading materials of those older children coming to the city with little English. Officers advised that part of the overspend this year went on ensuring that the 'Teen Areas' are welcoming and contain suitable material to allow them to engage without having to go to the Children's area.
- Members queried how often stock is reviewed to ensure that stock both up to date and pertinent. Officers advised that regular reviews are undertaken, and certainly previously it was found that there was some branch libraries were overstocked. However, the new system allows for analysis of the books taken out in which library.

Summer Reading Challenge 2016

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which he congratulated the involvement of all Councillors in this challenge and the hard work of all Officers involved.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Summer Reading Challenge 2016.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members:

- Members asked whether, bearing in mind the subject matter, they were able to manage the demand for Roald Dahl books. Officers advised that together with more books being purchased, staff got involved by reading stories and prints outs and poems were prepared and handed out.

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to relevant Cabinet Member, Directors and officers thanking them for attending the meeting and to convey the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

26 : DUMBALLS ROAD REGENERATION

This item was not for publication as it contained information of the kind described in Paragraphs 14 and 21 of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

27 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Economy & Culture Committee is on Thursday 8 December 2016 at 4.30 pm.

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