
ROATH LIBRARY

Appendices 2 and 5 of Appendix A are not for publication as it contains exempt information of the description in paragraph(s) 14 and 21 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Purpose of report

1. This report enables Members to consider and comment on the proposals for the future of Roath Library prior to a report being taken to Cabinet.

Background

2. Roath Library has been closed to the public since November 2014 due to health and safety reasons. A significant leak led to books and computers being removed from the building while the building was made water tight and a suspended roof removed. Additionally, the boiler at the Library has failed and in order to fix this, all associated pipework will also need to be replaced.
3. Members wrote to the Cabinet Member: Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise following the scrutiny of Quarter 3 performance in March, requesting a briefing note on the current position of the Library. The following response was received;

“Unfortunately, Roath library does require substantial investment to bring it back into use. The boiler has failed and to fix the boiler will require the associated pipe work to also need replacing. The roof leaked and as a result the books and computers have been removed. The immediate repair work has been carried out to ensure that the building is watertight and to reduce the chance of further damage.

A temporary alternative location has been investigated in the area. However due to the costs to ensure the alternative building meet the building requirements, it has been ruled that capital investment is reserved for a permanent solution, whether this is to bring the current building back into use or an alternate delivery in the area. In the interim, extra computers have been located in Splott Library, the Story-Time class has also transferred to Splott Librray and additional Into Work sessions have taken place.[...]"

4. Members were also informed that a way forward for the Library will be taken to Cabinet in May. This paper can be found attached as **Appendix A**.
5. The Cabinet report (**Appendix A** – paragraph 29) states that the condition of the building is such that retaining the building is not considered to be either sustainable or affordable. Therefore, the following options have been considered:

Option 1 – Sale of Roath Library and residents to use surrounding libraries.

Option 2 – Community Asset Transfer of the building.

Option 3 – Sale of Roath Library and Increased provision of services throughout the area, with the view for a longer-term proposal.

6. Having reviewed these options, the recommendations made within the Cabinet report (paragraphs 46 – 49) are:
 - It is recommended that option 3 Sale of Roath Library and increased provision of services throughout the area with potential for a longer term community partnership hub development.
 - The increased provision can be implemented almost immediately following decision and the first £40,000 capital receipt to be re-invested in the providing this additional provision.
 - It is also proposed that the Council will work with partners in the area, including the two mentioned to explore the potential of including a Community Partnership Hub within their redeveloped sites.

- This recommendation requires the deletion of the current staffing structure in relation to Roath library (1 full time equivalent Grade 6 Branch Librarian, 1 FTE Senior Library Assistant G4 and 1 FTE Library Assistant G3) and the creation of a qualified Neighbourhood Development Librarian. A significant number of employees with the library service have expressed a desire to take voluntary severance, therefore it is anticipated that those based within Roath Library and wish to remain employed will be offered other opportunities within the service at another location.

7. Based on the information contained within **Appendix A** and **Appendices 1-7**, the Cabinet is recommended:

- To agree that the condition of the Roath Library building means that retaining the existing library is unsustainable.
- To agree to the sale of Roath Library and to reinvest of the first £40,000 from the sale of the building to support the additional provision in the area as outlined in the recommendations of the report.
- To agree in principle to exploring with partners options for a future community partnership hub in the area
- To agree that work is carried out on longer term options for a Community Partnership Hub in a potential building in the Adamsdown/ Plasnewydd area and that this is reported back to Cabinet prior to community consultation.

Way Forward

8. Councillor Peter Bradbury (Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives and Social Enterprise) has been invited and may wish to give a statement. Sarah McGill, Director Communities, Housing and Customer Services) and Isabelle Bignall (Assistant Director of Communities and Customer Service) and will also be in attendance.

Legal Implications

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this

report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

10. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/ Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

11. The Committee is recommended to give consideration to the information attached to this report and received at this meeting and to submit any recommendations, observations or comments to the Cabinet Member, prior to this report being taken to Cabinet on 28 May 2015.

Marie Rosenthal
County Clerk and Monitoring Officer
8 May 2015