
**BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE FURTHER
DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY HUBS**

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides the Committee with background information to enable Members to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the draft proposals for “***Building Resilient Communities through the Further Development of Community Hubs***” prior to its consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 17 May 2018.
2. A copy of the draft Cabinet Report is attached at **Appendix A**.

Background

3. At a previous meeting of this Scrutiny Committee (14 March 2018), Members received a pre-decision scrutiny item on the HRA Business Plan, which included an overview of future developments in relation to Hubs Programme. Members were informed that a network of 12 Hubs had already been established through the Hubs Programme, which provides joined-up customer services, with St Mellons Phase 2 being completed in Summer 2018.
4. The report attached at **Appendix A** builds on work done to date, and states that “*the hubs contribute to the achievement of a number of key corporate objectives within the theme of tackling inequalities by delivering a very wide range of locally available integrated services. The project also contributes to*

meeting the objectives of the Transport and Clean Air green paper by enabling better access to services within walking and cycling distance”.

“With the increasing older population, and problem of isolation there is a need to bring together services in other areas of the city with a focus on wellbeing, community engagement and independent living. This report sets out proposals for the next steps in the Hub development programme focused on the West and North of the city and also the further development of Central Library Hub”.

Issues

5. The report set out in **Appendix A** outlines the proposals for the further development of the Hubs. This includes:

- The Development of Community Wellbeing Hubs
- A New Approach to Community Engagement Anchored in the Hubs
- Further Development of Central Library Hub

The draft Cabinet report also sets out proposals regarding *“a new approach to library services, building on best practice to deliver quality library services and events across the city”*. This issue was considered by the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 10 May 2017.

6. **Appendix A** calls on the Cabinet to:

- i. Approve the approach to developing Community Wellbeing Hubs in the north and west of the city and delegate authority to the Director People and Communities to take this forward in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities. Any proposals that require significant change to current buildings will be the subject of a separate cabinet report.

- ii. Agree the proposals for the new approach to community engagement through the introduction of Community Inclusion Officers anchored in the Hubs.
- iii. To agree a grant programme for Health and Wellbeing and Homework Clubs as set out in the report.
- iv. Agree proposals to improve services and increase joined up working in Central Library Hub
- v. Approve the further development of library services, building on best practice to deliver quality library services and events across the city.

Way Forward

7. At this meeting, Councillor Lynda Thorne (Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing) will be invited to make a statement. Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities) and Jane Thomas (Assistant Director, Housing & Communities) will be in attendance to provide Members with a presentation on the proposals and answer Members' questions.
8. Pre-decision scrutiny aims to inform the Cabinet's decisions by making evidence based recommendations. Scrutiny Members are advised to:
 - i) look at the information provided in the report to Cabinet to see if this is sufficient to enable the Cabinet to make an informed decision;
 - ii) check the financial implications section of the Cabinet report to be aware of the advice given;
 - iii) check the legal implications section of the Cabinet report to be aware of the advice given;
 - iv) check the recommendations to Cabinet to see if these are appropriate.
9. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for their consideration prior to making their decisions on the 17 May 2018.

Legal 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 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 of 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

11. 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

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. consider the information set out in **Appendix A** to this report;
- ii. consider the information provided in the presentation to this meeting;
- iii. decide whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Cabinet at its meeting on the 17 May 2018; and decide the way forward with regard to any further scrutiny of this issue.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

10 May 2018