

JOINT OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023

Present: Cllrs Mike Parkes (Chairman), Tony Alford, Beryl Ezzard, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Stella Jones and Howard Legg

Apologies: Cllrs Cathy Lugg and Andrew Starr

Also present: Cllr Shane Bartlett, Cllr Pauline Batstone and Cllr Laura Beddow

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Kate Turner (Library Strategy Manager), Lisa Cotton (Corporate Director for Customer and Cultural Services), Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and John Miles (Democratic Services Officer Apprentice)

Officers present remotely (for all or part of the meeting):

James Inge (Senior Communications Officer)

1. **Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting**

It was proposed by C Jones seconded by A Alford.

Decision

That M Parkes be appointed as Chairman for the meeting of the committee.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements from members of the public or local organisations.

5. **Questions from Councillors**

There were no questions from councillors.

6. **Library Strategy**

The committee received and considered a report of the Library Strategy Manager which presented a new Dorset Council Library Strategy which would guide how the council developed and delivered the library service over the next 10 years, delivering services in line with the needs of residents and Dorset Council's strategic priorities.

Councillors considered the report and supporting presentation provided by the Library Strategy Manager and points were noted in the following areas:

- A point was noted of the importance of books to children.
- The arrangements for the library in Blandford.
- How the planning for events in the libraries connected and integrated with other events being held in communities and by partner organisations.
- Ensuring people were aware of when libraries were open.
- Commercialisation opportunities.
- Use of libraries by children after school and links to school transport provision.
- Work being undertaken with various groups and the volunteer sector to ensure that libraries were welcoming to all.
- Opening hours for the Dorchester Library and communications and marketing being undertaken around changes to opening hours.
- Any plans for outreach services would need to be considered as required and in relation to available library services within a particular area.
- Links to the barge to be positioned in Portland Port were being investigated through a multi-agency forum and voluntary sector partners.
- There was ongoing engagement with town and parish councils regarding the strategy.
- The availability of books would be reviewed through an evidence-based stock management system, to ensure that collections met customer needs.
- Councillors could be involved as volunteers in library related services and activities.

The Chairman thanked officers and the portfolio holder for the report and presentation.

It was proposed by S Jespersen seconded by C Jones

Recommendation to Cabinet on 25 July 2023

1. That the Library Strategy, Operating Model and Action Plan be endorsed and adopted (Appendices 1, 9, 10).
2. That the operating model be implemented from 2024 by the Library Service following consultation with the workforce and engagement with communities.
3. That the consultation and engagement undertaken with our communities, involving residents, children, communities, partners, businesses, councillors, our workforce and all council services is noted. (Appendices 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

4. That the findings and proposals contained within the Equalities Impact Assessment is noted. (Appendix 8).

7. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

8. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 3.03 pm

Chairman

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