

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD**

### **HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION - EDUCATION, LEISURE AND LIFELONG LEARNING - ANDREW THOMAS**

**28 October 2016**

Matter for Decision

**Wards Affected:** All wards

## **Library Strategy 2016-2021**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval from Members to implement the Library Service strategy which outlines current best practice and options for future development of public libraries in Neath Port Talbot.

### **Executive Summary**

2. The Strategy provides a new vision for the delivery of a library service that will ensure that Neath Port Talbot provides a strong, sustainable network of public libraries, both statutory and community managed, together with a digital, 24/7 online library service that embraces new media, adapting to the ever changing needs of library users. The Strategy also highlights current best practice and incorporates current legislation, and ensures our statutory obligations are met, including new legislation such as the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015). Delivering this vision will create a vibrant library service that places libraries as a partner

working with other agencies and the voluntary sector in meeting Neath Port Talbot Council's key priorities while meeting the targets set out within the Welsh Public Library Standards. The Strategy also takes into account current changes in library provision as a result of financial pressures.

### **Background**

3. Neath Port Talbot is required to produce a library strategy so that it complies with the core entitlements as set out in the Welsh Public Library Standards. These Standards provide the framework for all local authorities in Wales to deliver their statutory responsibility in respect of library services and define ' a comprehensive and efficient library service'.

### **Financial Impact**

4. There are no immediate financial impacts relating to this report. However depending on any future decisions being made by Members relating to the recommendations, a full financial analysis will be provided. This Strategy outlines potential opportunities for the future direction of the Library Service.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

5. A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Authority in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

After completing the assessment, it has been determined that this function does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Workforce Impacts**

6. There are no workforce impacts associated with this report at present. However depending on any decisions being made by Members a full analysis and consultation will be carried out. This Strategy only outlines potential opportunities for the future direction of the Library Service.

### **Legal Impacts**

7. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

## **Risk Management**

8. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

## **Consultation**

9. At present there is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item. However any future decisions made which are based on the recommendations will require consultation.

## **Recommendations**

10. That Members approve the Library Strategy which will enable the authority to comply with the core entitlements of the Welsh Public Library Standards.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

11. To ensure that Neath Port Talbot complies with Welsh Public Library Standards and delivers an efficient and valued service to residents.

## **Implementation of Decision**

12. The decision will be implemented after the 3 day call in period.

## **Appendix 1. Library Strategy 2016-2021**

### **List of Background Papers**

13. Welsh Public Library Standards Framework 5

### **Officer Contact**

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