

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Economic and Community Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

9th December 2016

Report of the Head of Transformation – A Thomas

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Community Managed Libraries / Library Service Report Card 2016 - 17

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members with an update on the progress of Community Managed libraries in Neath Port Talbot.
2. To present for scrutiny the Library services Report Card for 2016 -17.

Executive Summary

3. This report provides an annual update and overview of progress for the nine Community managed libraries as proposed at the ECR scrutiny committee meeting in December 2013.

4. The second part of the report presents to members for scrutiny the library services Report Card for 2016 - 17, taking into account the current library Strategy and policies of Welsh Government and the local needs of residents in Neath Port Talbot. The Report Card summarises a detailed assessment of the library services performance during the year, listing service priorities, key measures and actions for future development of the service.

Background

5. The Library Service Review of 2013 -14 resulted in nine libraries transferring to community management. In April 2013, five of the libraries - Blaengwynfi, Cwmllynfyll, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Seven Sisters and Ystalyfera, based in rented accommodation transferred over to community groups.
6. The remaining four - Briton Ferry, Cymmer Afan, Resolven and Taibach libraries which were based in authority owned buildings transferred in May 2013. Neath Port Talbot library service has continued to provide professional support and book stock, together with access to the Library management system for each of these libraries.
7. The Library service is a statutory service under the Public Libraries and Museums Act (1964) which requires all Local Authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service. In Wales, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure is charged with superintending the provision of library services and this is achieved via the Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS), which provides a framework for monitoring and developing services.

Financial Impact

8. There are no additional financial impacts on the authority.

Equality Impact Assessment

9. There are no equality impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

10. There are no workforce implications associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

11. There are no legal implications.

Risk Management

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

Consultation

13. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

14. Items are for monitoring purposes.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

15. Not applicable.

Implementation of Decision

16. Not applicable.

Appendices

17. Appendix 1 - Overview of Progress of Community Managed Libraries
18. Appendix 2 - Library Services Report Card 2016-17

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