



REPORT TITLE: AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL – REVIEW OF LIBRARIES – ACTION PLAN

DAVID BUDD EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

KEVIN PARKES, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date 28 April 2009

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek approval for the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Report - Review of Libraries Action Plan.

BACKGROUND AND EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

2. Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel undertook a review of Libraries and produced 8 recommendations.
3. The Action Plan attached at **(Appendix 1)** has been developed in consultation with the Library Service in response to those recommendations.
4. The review of the Libraries Service has been on-going for some time. The interim findings of the review were heavily drawn upon in the preparation of information for the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel's investigation. Most of the panel's recommendations relate to areas which are being addressed as part of the review; the review has also looked at some additional areas of the Libraries Service not covered by the Scrutiny Panel's recommendations. A full report on the

outcome of the review will be presented to the Executive in due course, and this will pick up all of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel. However, further comment is provided on the recommendations in the action plan at Appendix One.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND WARD IMPLICATIONS

5. **Financial** – This review links into the Library Service efficiency targets and as such the outcome of the action plan will have a bearing on the achievement of these efficiencies. Associated cost implications have been identified and requests made to the change management fund.
6. **Ward Implications** – The recommendations and consequent library review could potentially impact on all wards across the town. Consultation will take place in affected wards.
7. **Legal Implications** – No legal implications

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. That the Executive approves the Action Plan developed in response to the Ad Hoc Scrutiny report on the Review of Libraries in Middlesbrough.

REASONS

9. As part of the agreed Council procedures, all Scrutiny reports have to be considered by the Executive

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Ad Hoc Panel final report – Review of Libraries in Middlesbrough

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**AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL
REVIEW OF LIBRARIES – ACTION PLAN**

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>a) In view of the current over provision of libraries a programme of library closures should be developed based on closing those libraries with low usage and where there was another library in close proximity. The programme should be one that ensures that alternative provision, such as community management and longer opening hours in remaining branches, is provided. This should be agreed in consultation with local communities.</p>	<p>To be addressed as part of the on-going review. Full consultation will be undertaken with local communities, staff and trades unions.</p>	<p>Director of Regeneration, assisted by Library manager and library management team</p>	<p>Estimate £5K from change management fund</p>	<p>September 2009</p>
<p>b) That the responsibility of the running of Abingdon Library should be returned to Abingdon School.</p>	<p>To be addressed as part of the on-going review. Full consultation will be undertaken with local communities, staff and trades unions. Discussions will take place with the Director of CFL, the Head Teacher, and library users.</p>	<p>Director of Regeneration, supported by Library manager</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>July 2009</p>
<p>c) That the current Whinney Banks Library is closed in view of the closure</p>	<p>There remains some uncertainty over the timing of the closure of</p>	<p>Library manager</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>July 2009</p>

of the Youth and Community Centre.	the existing youth and community centre. It is therefore proposed that this recommendation be agreed in principle but its implementation deferred until the existing centre is closed.			
d) That alternative arrangements are sought for the current library provision at Stainton Village Hall.	To be addressed as part of the on-going review. Full consultation will be undertaken with local communities, staff and trades unions. Discussions will take place with the Stainton Hall management committee.	Library manager	Nil	July 2009
e) That any staff that are affected by the closures are offered re-deployment within the Council or voluntary redundancy where appropriate.	Consultations will commence with all affected employees, before any decisions are made, with a view to ensuring that legal and contractual obligations are met and compulsory redundancies are avoided wherever possible	Director of Regeneration supported by Library manager/Sue Osbon (HR)	Dependent upon result of library review	Dependent upon result of library review
f) That a review of the current use of the mobile library is undertaken with a view to encouraging further use in areas where closures have occurred.	To be considered as part of the service review.	Director of Regeneration supported by Library manager	Nil	September 2009
g) A review of the pricing structure for the media rentals market and the annual charge for internet use is undertaken with a view to raising	To be addressed as part of the on-going review. Full consultation will be undertaken with local communities, staff and	Director of Regeneration supported by Library Manager	Nil	Incorporate the outcome into the

charges.	trades unions.			Regeneration Service's annual review of fees and charges
h) That the service increases its promotion of the library facilities in Middlesbrough including placing an emphasis on the learning facilities provided by libraries (ie promoting literacy events, IT and Information Skills etc) and also the services that are available to library members through the website.	Agreed.	Director of Regeneration supported by Library Manager.	Nil	On going