

**CIVIC / LIBRARIES PARTNERSHIP PROJECT UPDATE**

**To: Communities & Partnership Committee**

**Meeting Date: 10 October 2019**

**From: Adrian Chapman, Director of Communities & Safety**

**Electoral division(s): All**

**Forward Plan ref: N/A**                      **Key decision: No**

**Purpose: This report provides an update on the Civic and Library Service partnership project to develop the 'Cambridgeshire Model' of Future Libraries**

**Recommendation: The Committee is requested to note the report.**

| <b><i>Officer contact:</i></b>             | <b><i>Member contacts:</i></b>                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name: Christine May                        | Names: Councillor Steve Criswell                                                                      |
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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At the 30 May meeting of this Committee a [report](#) was presented on the partnership working to date between the Library Services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with Civic. Members resolved unanimously to:
- Note the work to date and approve the project going ahead;
  - Review regular progress updates to the Committee, make decisions on behalf of the Council and engage in working groups, as required; and
  - Support officers' active participation in this project and champion it with others.
- 1.2 This report is the first of the regular progress reports on this project.
- 1.3 Members are asked to note that, separate (but complementary) to the work with Civic, a new vision for the library service is currently being developed, to better reflect the scale of ambition we have to place libraries at the heart of our business and to embed them as a key enabling service as part of our Think Communities and Cambs 2020 approaches. The draft vision will be brought to Committee shortly.

## **2. FUNDING**

- 2.1 On 9 July 2019 Civic attended a roundtable of funding bodies hosted by Esme Fairbairn, where the team pitched the Future Libraries initiative. Attendees included Garfield Weston Foundation, Carnegie UK Trust, Tudor Trust, National Lottery Community Fund, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- 2.2 Civic is now coordinating follow-up conversations with the representatives who attended the roundtable and their trustees, along with organisations which were unable to attend. These meetings are now taking place, in line with the funding bodies' board and trustee schedules.
- 2.3 Feedback from the roundtable session was positive and Civic are following up to put in applications for funding appropriate to the relevant funding body. However, feedback indicated that the potential funders would like to see a token funding contribution from the Local Authorities to show commitment to the partnership. To date the County Council is fully committed to this partnership, with officers committed to the programme, and is providing significant capital investment in the service in excess of £3m. Any financial contribution to the project from the Council in the short term will need to be approved as part of the Council's Transformation Fund.

## **3. GOVERNANCE**

- 3.1 A Partnership Agreement between Cambridgeshire County Council and Civic has been signed, along with a non-disclosure agreement. In Peterborough, the City Council's Growth Environment & Resources Scrutiny Committee has supported the project.
- 3.2 A Core Team has been established to oversee the work of the partnership. Councillor Steve Criswell and Peterborough City Councillor Steve Allen are members of this group, as chair of the relevant Committee and Cabinet Member respectively.
- 3.3 Three core officer working groups have been established:

- **Physical Design** - exploring how the interior design of the space can elevate its role in the community and inspire new uses.
- **Library Innovation** - exploring how we can evolve the services, content and programming that sits within a library.
- **Value and Impact** - exploring how we can generate further value from the library service, to build a sustainable social and economic model, and build mechanisms to understand impact.

#### 4. COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

- 4.1 An effective shared communications strategy agreed by all partners is in place with communication plans developed and actioned around key milestones.
- 4.2 A news release was issued to announce the partnership before the last Committee at which this item was discussed (30 May) and further engagement with local media will be carried out when community outreach starts in local areas. In the meantime, national interest in the project is increasing and William Sieghart outlined the project in an interview with the Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals (CILIP) in March 2019.
- 4.3 Content has been developed for the Council's website that will be duplicated on Vivacity and Peterborough City Council websites. The web pages will outline the project principles and give a dedicated space to each of the seven prototype locations so that each community can access relevant details and information. They will also act as the project's front window for partners and funders.
- 4.4 In the past few months, the project team have had initial engagement meetings with local Councillors in all of the prototype locations. Workshops with the staff of each library are also underway, as are meetings with directors across the council. All these meetings are proving extremely useful and positive, with many opportunities being identified.
- 4.5 A schedule of community outreach activity in the seven pilot areas is being developed. The project team is meeting with key individuals in each prototype community. Workshops will be coordinated to co-create activity through the library with the community.

#### 5. PARTNERSHIP LINKS

- 5.1 Close communication has been maintained with the DCMS and others. Louise Smith (Deputy Director for Arts, Libraries and Digital Culture) from DCMS visited Cambridge Central Library on 17th September 2019, when the project team presented the Future Libraries initiative.
- 5.2 Civic and CCC officers are exploring the opportunities for national content providers (the BBC, the British Film Institute, and the British Library) to integrate their assets into the library.
- 5.3 Civic are working closely with Alexandra Mousavizadeh of Tortoise Media to develop a framework for measuring the impact of this work. Civic have also established relationships with a range of partners to create new design ideas and concepts for libraries, including Cambridge University, Delvendahl Martin, Heatherwick Studio, Practice Architecture,

Assemble, Citizens Design Bureau and Studio Ilse.

## **6. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 A good quality of life for everyone**

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- This work will be looking at how the library can provide support across personal health and wellbeing, community support and social prescribing, SME and entrepreneur business support and employability support – all promoting individual economic agency and a sense of wellbeing
- The provision of quality information, guidance and advice in libraries helps people to live healthy and independent lives and make well-informed choices
- Encouraging the reading habit and providing self-help information in libraries supports people to remain independent

### **6.2 Thriving places for people to live**

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- This work will look at how libraries can offer services and house partnerships promoting new social, cultural and economic opportunities/experiences that come together to enhance the lives of community members and promote a place through the library
- The Library Service helps people to get involved and feel included in their communities
- Libraries will continue to be safe places in communities where people can meet others.

### **6.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children**

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- This work will bring international best practice library service thinking to Cambridgeshire, and all of the benefits of this to children's education and social development, alongside new partnerships, services and experiences that aim to prevent demand on social services and promote social prescribing – all aiming to promote the life chances the library can create for children
- Providing support for children helps to ensure that the workforce of the future has well-developed essential literacy skills, and is equipped to engage in lifelong learning

## **7. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Resource Implications**

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- It is intended that the new model of library provision will be at the same or lower cost than the existing model. A bid may be made in the future to the Transformation Fund

for one off resources to sit alongside the external funding to support the development costs of the new model.

## **7.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- There has been positive engagement with Procurement colleagues to identify potential procurement implications of the project, and colleagues will continue to be engaged throughout to ensure that Procurement rules and legislation are followed.

## **7.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- This project is designed to sustain and promote the role of the statutory library service
- The key risk of this project to the Council at this stage is reputational, should the project fail or for any reason cause friction with stakeholders. This risk is being mitigated through a robust governance structure, through the deep engagement of stakeholders throughout the project, and through a communications strategy and plan that will be managed by the Core Team.

## **7.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category.

## **7.5 Engagement and Communications Implications**

The report above sets out details in section 4.

## **7.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

The report above sets out details in section 3.2 and section 4.1.

## **7.7 Public Health Implications**

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Libraries play a key role in providing information and opportunities to acquire new skills that will support users to improve their health and wellbeing.
- They provide focal points for communities to meet and mitigate the effects of isolation and loneliness on mental health
- Through embedding them into the community they become important community assets that contribute to strengthening and building community resilience that are associated with improvements in health and wellbeing.

| <b>Implications</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>Officer Clearance</b>               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?</b>                                                                       | Yes<br>Name of Officer: Martin Wade    |
|                                                                                                                                      |                                        |
| <b>Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?</b> | Yes<br>Name of Officer: Jeandre Hunter |
|                                                                                                                                      |                                        |
| <b>Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law?</b>        | Yes<br>Name of Officer: Amy Brown      |
|                                                                                                                                      |                                        |
| <b>Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>                                            | Yes<br>Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman |
|                                                                                                                                      |                                        |
| <b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>                                            | Yes<br>Name of Officer: Eleanor Bell   |
|                                                                                                                                      |                                        |
| <b>Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>                                   | Yes<br>Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman |
|                                                                                                                                      |                                        |
| <b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>                                                             | Yes<br>Name of Officer: Tess Campbell  |

| <b>Source Documents</b>                                                                                                        | <b>Location</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>'Libraries Future Model – Civic Programme' – report from Communities and Partnership Committee meeting on 30th May 2019</b> | <a href="https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/cc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/850/Committee/44/Default.aspx">https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/cc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/850/Committee/44/Default.aspx</a> |