

## Meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

13 March 2025

### Responses to Recommendations / Information requested.

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
<b>Library and Cultural Services</b>			
<b>Recommendation</b>			
1	<p>The Committee expressed concern that many residents already feel that their local libraries are under constant threat of closure and that the public engagement documentation detailing proposed changes and more centralised community hubs may lead to further public perception that the closure of their local library is likely. The Committee therefore <b>recommended</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an additional option: retaining existing provision, be added to the question, '<i>What concerns or suggestions do you have regarding the proposed changes to library services?</i>'; and</li> <li>b. the key marketing message for the consultation should focus on the statement within the Introduction of the engagement</li> </ul>	Agreed and Complete	Accepted

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	documentation: <i>'We hope this strategy will centre around a vision of expanding community hubs.'</i>		
<b>Additional Information</b>			
<b>2</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> confirmation of the dates and timescales of the consultation and of dates when Officers intend to present to community groups and residents, as offered by the Corporate Director, allowing Members the opportunity of attending where possible.	Agreed. Timescales of the consultation will be forwarded to Committee Members. Dates and venues for officers to meet with community groups and residents will be circulated to Members allowing the opportunity to attend where possible.	Accepted
<b>3</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> further information regarding the application process for money from the Integrated Community Hub Fund, highlighting how it may be particularly useful at Aberkenfig library.	<p>The Integration and Re-balancing Care Funding) (ICRF) is the regional fund against which LAs can make bids for capital to support the development of integrated community hubs.</p> <p>Regionally, a Community Hub Steering Group has been established to take the 5-year Regional Community Hub Strategy forward. Sophie Moore (Group Manager for Prevention &amp; Wellbeing) is BCBC's representative on this group.</p> <p>The lead agency has to write a business case and make a case for change with tendered costs. Applications of under £2M, which require a Business Case. For applications above £2M, there is a two/three stage approach with development of</p>	Accepted

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		Strategic Outline Case (SOC)/Outline Business Case (OBC) and then Full Business case (FBC) submitted to WG and their scrutiny panel – where this process can take several months.	
4	<p>The Committee discussed Pontycymmer Library which Members felt was not being accessed to its full potential and discussed the use of its former home at Blaengarw Workman's Hall.</p> <p>Members were advised that Awen Advisory Board would be meeting at the Blaengarw Workman's Hall to discuss how to make best use of the building on a longer term sustainable basis and the Committee <b>requested</b> feedback on the outcomes from the meeting.</p>	The Awen Advisory Board met at the Workman's Hall and discussed the need for a feasibility study to look at future use for the space in the hall. A bid has been made to the Council's feasibility funding stream which if successful will enable this work to progress. There will be strong community engagement built into the feasibility workstream	Accepted
<b>Forward Work Programme Update</b>			
9	<p>The Committee <b>requested</b> that the following reports be added to their Forward Work Programme:</p> <p>a. Support for Care Leavers (including input from Employability</p>	Scrutiny to Action with Scrutiny Chair in Work Planning Meetings.	Accepted

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	and Housing); and  b. Early Intervention, Prevention and Edge of Care Services.	Early Intervention Commissioning Strategy scheduled to next meeting of Committee on 1 May 2025.	
10	The Committee <b>requested</b> that the draft Library Strategy be added to the Committee's FWP as a Pre-Decision item following the consultation in the Autumn.	Scrutiny to Action with Scrutiny Chair in Work Planning Meetings.	Accepted