

Minutes of: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 8 June 2016

Present: Councillor (in the Chair)
Councillors R Shori, J Lewis, S Walmsley, S Briggs, T Tariq,
A Quinn, T Holt, T Pickstone and I Gartside

Also in attendance: -

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence:

CA.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made in respect of any items of business to be considered.

CA.27 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A period of thirty minutes was allocated for any members of the public present at the meeting to ask questions about the work or performance of the Council or Council services.

No questions were asked.

CA.28 MINUTES

Delegated decision:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CA.29 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE PRINCIPLES FOR THE BURY LIBRARY SERVICE

The Cabinet Member (Strategic Housing and Support Services) submitted a report regarding a proposed consultation on the Bury Library Service which will be based on on six Key Principles. The responses received could be used to provide the framework for a full review of the Bury Library Service in 2017.

The six Key Principles to be consulted on are:

1. To provide a Library Service across the borough which provide all residents with access to libraries and electronic services sufficient in number, range and quality to support reading for pleasure, lifelong learning, the development of new skills and the effective use of information.

2. To ensure that the needs of more vulnerable residents and groups protected by Equalities legislation are taken fully into account in the provision of these services.

3. To ensure that the resources committed to the library service are used as efficiently as possible by exploring options to reduce running and maintenance costs and to share premises with Council and other services.
4. To explore options for investing in technology to improve access to the library service for example by extending opening hours, increasing our digital services and enhancing provision for those with sensory impairments.
5. To welcome the contribution that members of the community can make to the Library Service as volunteers, supporting both traditional and digital services.
6. To meet local aspirations for a network of community spaces across the borough in which the council and local communities can work together as partners in meeting local needs.

In order to gain a wide range of views on the service, contact will be made with current library service users and non-users. The consultation will include an online survey, telephone survey, public meetings and face to face contact and this will be supported by a consultancy company.

The report provided an indicative timetable for the process to be followed, including the submission of the outcome of the first consultation phase report to Cabinet in October. A second consultation would then take place with a final report to Cabinet in March 2017. Consultation would then take place with staff members during April and May 2017 with the final implementation of proposals anticipated by 1 July 2017.

In welcoming the report the Chair also acknowledged the involvement of former Councillor Paddy Heneghan, for his work in initiating a review of the Bury Library Service, as the Cabinet Member responsible.

Delegated decision:

That approval be given to a consultation with all stakeholders concerning the Bury Library Service (time period - 13 June to 5 September 2016) that will focus on the six Key Principles, as detailed above, and will drive a review of the Bury Library Service.

Reason for the decision:

Bury Council has a duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service and is committed to continuing this provision within the available resources.

Other options considered and rejected:

To reject/ amend the recommendation.

CA.30

OFSTED INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS AND REVIEW OF LOCAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD

The Cabinet Member (Children and Families) submitted a report presenting the findings of an Ofsted inspection of Bury Council Children's Services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers.

The inspection took place over a four week period during February and March 2016 and involved twelve inspectors focussing on:

- Frontline case practice
- Children and Young People's own experiences
- A greater emphasis on the outcomes and needs of the child
- Early identification and help for children, young people and their families;
- A greater emphasis than in previous inspections about how effectively partner agencies work together to protect children and young people;
- Services for LAC (Looked After Children) (including Fostering, Adoption and Care Leavers)
- A review of the LSCB (Local Safeguarding and Children Board)

The inspection found that there were no widespread or serious failings that may result in or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm. Also, the welfare of looked after children and their safeguarding is promoted.

The services to children and young people were recognised as being predominantly good and the report included eleven recommendations to assist the Council in preparing an action plan to ensure all services to children and young people are rated 'good' or 'outstanding'. The Local Safeguarding Children Board received 5 recommendations which will be used to form part of a Safeguarding Board action plan.

In welcoming the report Councillor Gartside requested that consideration be given to the creation of a Safeguarding Committee with the purpose of monitoring and addressing safeguarding issues.

Delegated decisions:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Executive Director of Children, Young People & Culture be instructed to submit an action plan in response to the outcome of the inspection for submission to Cabinet on 20 July 2016.

Reason for the decision:

The report demonstrates that the services to vulnerable children and young people in Bury have measurably improved over the last two years and must continue to improve.

Other option considered and rejected:

To reject the recommendation.

**COUNCILLOR
Chair**

(Note: The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.30 pm)