

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING**

**INVESTMENT IN SCUNTHORPE LIBRARY PROVISION**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve the investment into Scunthorpe Central Library to develop an integrated community offer and a consultation for the re-provision of Park library services.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The council's capital programme for 2017-18 includes £1m funding to develop the Central Library. This investment provides an opportunity to reinvigorate the Central Library offer and establish the facility as a key town centre destination and 'go to' place for information, advice and lifelong learning services.
- 2.2 Considerable feasibility work has been undertaken to develop the concept of an integrated community offer at the Central Library in terms of outcomes, nature, extent, design and viability of a new multi-service delivery model.
- 2.3 The aim is to create a vibrant community space, bringing together a range of information, advice services and lifelong learning opportunities to:
- enable progression into employment
  - raise aspirations
  - improve digital access
  - promote literate communities
  - improve health and well-being
  - provide cultural enrichment
  - promote community prosperity
  - transform the customer journey/experience
- 2.4 The preferred integrated model would comprise the following services:
- Library and Local Link services
  - Action Station services
  - Maximus Training (currently in Action Station)
  - Citizens' Advice Bureau
  - Housing Advice
  - Integrated Health

- 2.5 Park Library is over 50 years old and is a dated and unattractive stand-alone facility with significant maintenance demands. The library has had the largest decline in membership across North Lincolnshire. Park is the closest library to Scunthorpe Central Library.

### 3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To use the £1 million to invest in the capital resource identified within the approved Council budget to invest into Scunthorpe Central Library, developing a new, integrated community offer within this town centre space and to consult on the re-provision of Park Library as part of this development.

### 4 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The business case considered a range of options and the refurbishment of the Central Library to facilitate a model of integrated service delivery was deemed to be the most viable. The project supports the aim of developing a coordinated approach to enabling people to help themselves and to supporting community wellbeing. The provision of high quality universal and lower-level targeted services will reduce dependence on more specialist council services.
- 4.2 To facilitate the new delivery model, the main adaptations needed to the Central Library are:
- creation of new meeting / activity spaces and rooms
  - refurbishment of existing library and study facilities
  - creation of new and attractive shared ground floor reception area
  - mix of open and confidential interview rooms/booths
  - range of self-service access and enhanced IT facilities
  - creation of shared work spaces for staff/volunteers
- 4.3 The refurbishment will require closure of the library for a period of up to five months from November 2017. The new facility is expected to open in April 2018. During this time, a temporary library service provided from the Base facility that adjoins the library and signposting to other library facilities will be available.
- 4.4 The offer of a more vibrant and integrated community offer within the reshaped Central Library would ensure that the Crosby and Park community have better access to high quality services to enable higher levels of wellbeing and aspirations for future prosperity and employment. Opening consultation enables service users to express their views on this development and about how a targeted library service via a mobile library may best be incorporated into the development.

### 5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 **Financial:** The business case provided a cost analysis and demonstrated a return on investment over a 5 year period. The project will enable revenue savings and economies of scale from integration of offer and resources.

Estimates from Property Services indicate that the development needed to transform the Central Library is achievable within the £1m capital funds available. This is subject to the procurement process.

- 5.2 **Staffing:** The development of an integrated delivery model will involve reconfiguration of staffing resources and workforce development. Any review of staffing arrangements will be undertaken in line with council policies.
- 5.3 **Property:** The indicative closure period while work is carried out is estimated to be approximately five months. During the closure period, a temporary library service provided from the Base facility that adjoins the library and signposting to other library facilities will be available.

## **6 OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 6.1 No negative impacts have been identified at this stage.

## **7 OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 7.1 Consultation with services affected by the proposal to invest into Scunthorpe Library has been undertaken during development of the business case. Key services form part of the project team.
- 7.2 No conflicts of interest have been identified.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 To use the £1 million capital resource identified within the approved Council budget to invest into Scunthorpe Central Library, developing a new, integrated community offer within this town centre space and to consult on the re-provision of Park Library as part of this development.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report** Integrated Community Offer Business Case