

<b>AGENDA ITEM 5</b>		<b>PSEEG/13/19</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18/07/2019</b>	
<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Future Library Services Strategy</b>	
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## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. This report is designed to update members of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee on progress on the Essex County Council future library services strategy, and to provide the final cabinet paper for further scrutiny.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1. Section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 requires the Council 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons desiring to make use thereof'.
- 2.2. On 22 November 2018, Cabinet received a report highlighting that "Nationally and in Essex, use of public libraries is falling. Between 2012/13 and 2017/18, loans from Essex library services fell 43% from over 7.1m a year to fewer than 4.1m; use of public network computers fell 22%".
- 2.3. On 29 November 2018, Essex County Council went out to consultation on its draft library strategy covering 2019-24. The consultation period lasted 12 weeks and nearly 22,000 people responded. In addition, the Council received more than 1,000 letters and emails and 57 petitions, containing around 60,000 signatures.
- 2.4. The results of the consultation have been analysed and the draft strategy and its supporting documents reviewed and updated in light of the feedback received. The new draft strategy is due to be considered by Cabinet on 23 July. If adopted, the strategy will be implemented between autumn 2019 and spring 2024.
- 2.5. All the papers that will be available to Cabinet to inform their decision will be published on 15 July 2019 with the Cabinet agenda. Once available they will also be appended to the scrutiny committee report. A list of the expected papers is provided below, although this may still be subject to change.

- 2.6 To date, the future library services strategy has been considered by the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee on three occasions:

**22/11/18** – PSEG members received a high-level update on early proposals and an outline of the consultation process and decision timeline.

**28/03/19** – Members received a presentation outlining early results from the consultation and engagement process.

**30/05/19** – PSEG members undertook a full committee Task and Finish Review of emerging future libraries proposals. The committee then submitted 7 Recommendations to the Cabinet member.

### **3. Session aims**

- 3.1 Members of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee are asked to discuss the proposals, providing feedback and making recommendations.

### **4. List of Appendices – to follow (may be subject to change)**

Appendix A: Cabinet report: Future Library Services Strategy 2019-2024

Appendix B: Revised draft Future Library Services Strategy 2019-2024

Appendix C: Essex Future Library Services Consultation 2019 report (analysis report)

Appendix D: Consultation Response Report: further analysis and Council response to comments and suggestions

Appendix E: Library usage data 2008/9 to 2018/19

Appendix F: Essex Future Library Services Strategy Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix G: Recommendations from Task and Finish Review 30/05/2019