

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**GOTHAM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LIBRARY – PROGRESS ON
DEVELOPMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for the development of Gotham Library as a community partnership library.

Information and Advice

2. The business case approved by Full Council in February 2014 identified the development of community partnership libraries (CPLs) as making a contribution to the £1m savings identified at that point for the Libraries, Archives and Information Group of Services.
3. CPLs are a form of community managed libraries delivered through partnership with local bodies and groups to support the continuing sustainability of local library services.
4. The Council's 'Redefining Your Council' strategic vision re-affirmed the Council's approach to the development of community partnerships to ensure a sustainable network of libraries, without the threat of closure. The approach is a voluntary involvement of communities in the creation of bespoke partnerships to ensure and embed the sustainability of small community libraries.
5. Gotham Library operates from a building owned by the Gotham Memorial Hall Committee. The Memorial Hall Committee has always been very supportive of the library, and discussions to explore the possibility of Gotham Library becoming a community partnership library have been positively received. As a consequence, members of Gotham Memorial Hall Committee have been happy to work with Inspire to progress the idea, and to establish a body of volunteers from among the local community.
6. As a result of these discussions, Inspire has agreed to maintain all current expenses associated with the current library building, and Gotham Memorial Hall Committee will recruit and organise volunteers to cover day to day transactional operations within the library. This will result in financial savings for Inspire associated with employing library assistants to cover the 9 opening hours of the library. It should be noted that there is currently a vacancy at Gotham Library, and the opening hours are currently being met by library assistants who are called in to cover as needed.

7. A service level agreement will be drawn up between Inspire and Gotham Memorial Hall Committee to reflect both parties' responsibilities and any necessary changes to the lease will also be arranged with the landlord.
8. Volunteer recruitment is well underway following an open meeting, organised by Inspire in October 2016. Around 8 people attended the meeting with apologies from others who had expressed an interest but were unable to attend the meeting. As a result, 11 members of the community have now agreed to become library volunteers. This is a good number of volunteers for a CPL and is a testament to the support the village has always given to the library. Training, delivered by Inspire, will start in April 2017 and continue as needed until May 2017. In addition, and in order to simplify day to day transactions for both volunteers and members of the public, a small self-service machine will be installed prior to May 2017.

Other Options Considered

9. After looking at alternative locations, it was concluded that currently the present location is most suited to delivery of the service.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. The proposed partnership builds on the work undertaken by the Gotham Memorial Hall Committee and has been developed in liaison with and support of the local community. It is a sustainable model for delivery of accessible library services in Gotham.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. The successful development of CPLs will contribute towards the £1M savings required as set out in Outline Business Case B13.
13. Capital investment requirements are included within the Council's capital programme.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the development of Gotham Library as a community partnership library be approved.

Derek Higton
Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Gary Porter
Library Services Manager – Culture, Learning and Libraries - Inspire
T: 0115 8042683
E: gary.porter@inspireculture.org.uk

Constitutional Comments (LM 02/02/17)

14. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Culture Committee.

Financial Comments (TMR 02/02/17)

15. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Annual Budget 2014/15 – report to Full Council on 27 February 2014

Update on the development of Community Partnership Libraries – reports to Culture Committee on 3 June 2014, 22 September 2015 and 6 September 2016

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

Soar Valley Cllr Andrew Brown

C0941