

Libraries Partnership Board Meeting

13th May 2019, 2pm-4pm

Warrington Library

Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Members

Lynton Green – WBC – Director of Corporate Services

Eleanor Blackburn – WBC – Head of Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning

Cheryl Siddall – Livewire and Culture Warrington, People, Performance and Resources Director

Wendy Molyneux - Livewire -Strategic Library Manager

Amanda Juggins – WBC - Business Intelligence Manager

Gary Borrows – Save Warrington Libraries

Peter Lewenz - SWISH

Emma Hutchinson – Managing Director of Livewire and Culture Warrington

Board Support

Alison Harbidge (AH) – WBC, Partnership and Commissioning Officer

Apologies

Jane Forshaw- Friends of Penketh Library

Cllr. Joan Grime – Friends of Culcheth Library

Steve Cullen – Warrington CAB

	Actions
<p>1. <u>Welcome</u></p> <p>LG opened the meeting and welcomed all present.</p> <p>Introductions were made by each member of the board and apologies above noted.</p> <p>2. <u>Minutes and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Library Strategy</u></p> <p>EB tabled a draft version of the strategy updated following previous discussions and feedback which centred on reflecting the diversity of the library offer in Warrington. It was noted that the photographs needed to be more representative, and there were specific elements to be addressed such as spacing, fonts and maps.</p> <p>The format of the document was based on a ‘corporate’ style which had been requested at the last meeting of this group to reflect its importance to the Council.</p>	

Further enhancements to the document included a section on “you said we did” are currently being worked up, and once complete the strategy would be made available on the Council’s website.

GB commented that discussions in the past had been in relation to content, and that the focus now should be on presentation. Wigan BC have recently launched their manifesto for Culture, which was presented to the meeting, and GB asked for consideration to be given to a similar style of presentation for the Library Strategy and making the main document an on-line one with active links and moveable images.

Discussion took place around the table, and feedback from Board members was that whilst it was worth sourcing some more vibrant images for the Library Strategy, the Wigan document was cluttered and could detract from the wording of the strategy.

GB proposed that the Library Strategy be the forerunner to the update of the Cultural Framework, which was currently being updated, and suggested that this could be discussed with the Chair of the Culture Board so that there is a consistent approach.

Following discussions above, EB asked for feedback on the draft strategy from the floor and comments included the following :

- Need to maintain focus on libraries and books – don’t want to diffuse the message too much. Basis of document is good but possibly needs a more dynamic presentation.
- Strategy needs to have a blend of images, and agree that it should be widened to include all the things we want from a library service e.g. culture, drama, the arts
- The draft strategy is very clear and easy to read – Wigan document difficult to read – good to see service user interaction in the strategy.
- Consideration be given to the intention of the strategy – needs to have more information and set out what it is trying to achieve.
- Text wise the document is rich contains all elements required; Issue raised about decoration of the document is important but the actual launch of the document is also important to ensure it has maximum publicity.

Next Steps

EB advised that all the feedback today would be taken on board, particularly a reflection of the wider library service without detracting from the books. Following discussions with the graphic designer, an updated draft document would be made available for review. EB and LG will discuss an approach to the launch of the strategy, and present at future meetings options for delivery e.g. annual reporting.

Actions: LB/EB to discuss launch of strategy

<p>4. <u>LiveWire Libraries Events and Activities</u></p> <p>WM delivered a presentation on activities currently ongoing at libraries which were helping to deliver the aims of the strategy and the objectives of Libraries Connected.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Library Building Updates</u></p> <p><u>Central</u> EH updated on proposals to review opening hours in line with the Museum opening times, and having the building available for use 7 days a week with 2 days reserved for specific group visits and not open to the general public (Monday & Tuesday). Late opening on Thursdays was also being considered to align with the town centre shopping offer. There was a requirement to review needs to look at an Equality Impact Assessment of the revised offer.</p> <p>Action: Add Equality Impact Assessment to agenda for next meeting</p> <p><u>Stockton Heath</u> Project works have been out to tender and a preferred provider has been selected. Total project costs in excess of £180k target and efforts being made to reduce costs where possible. Project approx. 6 weeks behind schedule due to investigations and looking to start mid-June – need to start project ASAP.</p> <p><u>Lymm</u> Business and Sanctuary Hub ready to move in the building and awaiting transfer of children’s centre and CAB. Working group have applied for grants for renovations, including signage, and working with local community groups to create a dementia friendly sensory garden. Looking to pilot some businesses working out of the space in advance of full launch. It was noted Lymm have been self-sufficient to date not taken funds out of general pot.</p> <p><u>Culcheth</u> Meeting with working group later this week to discuss the potential of a new build due to the substantial amount of work required on the current building. Refurbishment is potentially the most cost effective solution in the short term, but a second option is being explored with would entail co-location with the community centre in Jackson Avenue as both buildings in poor condition and underutilised. External funding to support the project is being researched together with ongoing revenue and income potential. Action: EB to put together written briefing on options for Culcheth when all information is collated.</p> <p><u>Penketh</u> Following previous discussions about the Penketh Masterplan, a working group now established with stakeholders such as the Parish Council, Youth Service, Warrington & Co and LiveWire. No financial assessments have been made to date, but initial thoughts include a new library space within</p>	

<p>the development. Due to the size of the project, it will take some time until a new library would be available so consideration being given to urgent jobs that need to be done to the current library, including the outside of the building</p> <p><u>Padgate</u> Business case currently being developed around a flexible space within the building and meetings taken place with library suppliers to look at reconfiguring space. Following a question from the floor about plans for the front of the building, EB responded that this was a high priority and meetings have taken place with colleagues to progress areas for immediate improvement.</p> <p><u>Westbrook</u> No further contact from the shopping centre on plans to repopulate the shopping units.</p> <p><u>Birchwood</u> EB meeting colleagues at LiveWire later this week to review proposals to move the library into the Tennis & Leisure Centre in conjunction with refurbishment of the building. It was noted that the financial aspects were not looking favourable, and longer term financial implications of co-location not yet assessed.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Contributions from Public Gallery</u></p> <p>There were no further comments.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p><u>Heritage & Learning Hub</u> Following a question from the floor about plans for the town centre cultural hub, EB advised that current plans had been covered by the update on Central Library by EH earlier in the meeting. A previous project which would involve a major funding bid to the HLF was not being pursued due to the requirement for significant match funding by Warrington BC. LiveWire and Culture Warrington looking to bid for smaller pots of funding to make improvements to building.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Monday 8th July 2019, 2.00pm till 4.00pm, Culcheth Library</p>	