

The **Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel**, at its meeting on **2nd October 2025** made the following resolution which I bring to your attention.

2nd October 2025

To: Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy

Background

SPE.25 LIBRARY & ARCHIVES REVIEW PHASE 2 PUBLIC COINSULTATION

The panel considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and the Visitor Economy updating Cabinet on phase 2 public consultation findings of the library & archives review.

Members had a range of concerns around the timeline of works being done in the Grimsby Central Library. Mainly that it had now been closed for six months and they were none the wiser of the works that were going to take place.

One Member sought assurance around the removal of materials and received assurance.

One Member expressed dissatisfaction around the time it was taking to realise a clear picture around required works together with supporting timeline.

One Member commented on the commitment made around open and transparent engagement around such works and resultant cost.

One Member raised the point of Lincs Inspire's role and was assured that going forward work would be carried out with Lincs Inspire to understand what could be achieved within the extant contractual framework.

One Member asked for reassurance around the consultation findings not being pre-determined as a debate at Full Council upon receipt of a petition and the recommendations made to Cabinet were similar to the report on the consultation findings. The Member was assured that recommendations made at Full Council in July to Cabinet, were heavily caveated around the outcome of the consultation. Further, Officers explained that the consultation results had been consistent and in line with the Full Council recommendations to Cabinet. That was why the Full Council resolution wording and papers were very similar.

The Chair also questioned when the 'pop-up' library was anticipated to open in Freshney Place, and this could not be answered, with officers promising to revert in due course. The Chair asked if members could sight a copy of the project plan for the temporary central library move which was agreed by officers.

The panel agreed to support the recommendations within the report. However, they did want to recommend to Cabinet the following additional recommendations:



Recommends ...

1. That concern be raised to Cabinet that there is no clear timeline available to date on options and the cost for refurbishment of Grimsby Central Library, and that the anticipated timeline, that Cabinet can commit to with a degree of confidence, be shared with the members of the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel.
2. That the Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel receive the results of the initial Structural Survey of Grimsby Central Library, when made available to Cabinet.
3. The panel also agreed that the findings of the Library Services Select Committee needed to feed into the emerging library service strategy, so the panel recommended an amended version of recommendation 3 to read:
 - a. Authorises the Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage, and the Visitor Economy to establish options and costs for the repair and refurbishment of Grimsby Central Library, refine the library service needs assessment and develop the emerging library service strategy informed by the findings of the two phases of public consultation and engagement *and also the findings of the Library Services Select Committee.*

Scrutiny Chair: Councillor Steve Holland

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