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The **Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel**, at its meeting on **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026** made the following resolution which I bring to your attention.

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28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

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

## Background

### **SPE.52 STATUS OF THE LIBRARY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

The panel considered an interim report from the Chair of the Library Services Select Committee on the Library Services Select Committee interim findings.

The Chair of the Library Services Select Committee (also the Chair of the Economy, Culture & Tourism Scrutiny Panel) introduced the report and explained that an interim report was being presented to scrutiny due to the Select Committee's view that urgent decisions were required with respect to maintenance/regeneration works for Grimsby central Library.

The report made the following recommendation to scrutiny:

*'That in order to prevent further damage to the Central Library building, and in order to provide full, safe access, capital funding should be agreed on an urgent basis, sufficient to allow roof replacement, appropriate remediation to prevent significant water ingress through other openings, and asbestos removal (where appropriate) from the full building, and for the above works to be completed on an urgent basis.'*

Councillor Mickleburgh proposed that the recommendation be supported by the panel and referred to Cabinet.

A discussion then followed:

One Member had some concerns around the £3.5million proposal as they were not sure that this had been taken into account as part of the upcoming budget. They did not think the processes were up front enough to be able to commit to spending that sort of money in a single year. Ms Borgstrom explained that further assurance would take place as part of the capital work process. Once a decision had been made by Cabinet to support the investment, a full business case would be put forward in consultation with the finance team, which then would lead to a decision over which time period the capital would be profiled.

Another Member said that they fully supported the retention of the central library but had concerns about spending the initial £3.5million if the building were to end up getting demolished. They believed it would then be a waste of time and resources.



# Recommends ...

The Portfolio Holder explained to the panel that no matter what happened, the asbestos in the building would have to be removed at some point.

The Chair explained that the Select Committee had acknowledged that the building had been neglected for many years and they came to a unanimous conclusion that the works mentioned in their recommendation were urgently needed, partly to reduce the chance of further water damage which would increase the overall costs if not urgently addressed. He assured the meeting that the Select Committee were working on a cross-party basis, and stated that the recommendation in front of the panel had been made by a Conservative member and seconded by a Labour member of that committee.

Following the discussion, Councillor Crofts seconded the proposal, which was then unanimously approved.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET –

*That in order to prevent further damage to the Central Library building, and in order to provide full, safe access, capital funding should be agreed on an urgent basis, sufficient to allow roof replacement, appropriate remediation to prevent significant water ingress through other openings, and asbestos removal (where appropriate) from the full building, and for the above works to be completed on an urgent basis.*

**Scrutiny Chair: Councillor Steve Holland**

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