

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO GENERAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 April 2018

Question 1

Mr Milln – Hereford

Our excellent staff of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Services leverage volunteer support, good will and donation which are its life blood. Further budget cutting risks these benefits, the loss of which cannot be measured in financial terms alone. Whether or not a trust takes over museums, will the Council realise that supporting all three so they may grow brings richer rewards for well-being, pound for pound, than a bypass?

Question 2

Mr T Evans - Ledbury

How much does it cost to operate the library services currently and how much is HCC prepared to pay the contractor to ensure that they can operate the libraries?

Question 3

Mr J Hillaby – Hollybush near Ledbury

Whilst acknowledging the Council's need to cut costs we are concerned at the proposals to further reduce opening, new books supplies etc. Our main concern however is the proposal to outsource the library service. How can this be cost effective when the subcontractor would need to make a profit, and how can the Council ensure that standards are maintained?

Question 4

Mr L Watson - Garway

How is it possible for the Council to outsource the LMA services without subsidy whilst also meeting their statutory obligation to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service?

Question 5

Mr J Faulkner

Who will be ultimately accountable for the quality, delivery and development of library services following outsourcing?

Question 6

Mr J Hitchin

How will the Council make further progress with the integration of LMA services, as recommended by the LGA peer review and also central to the Rankin Centre (31 broad street) development, when service provision is outsourced?

Question 7

Mr W McMorran – Tedstone Delamare, Bromyard

How will the concepts and forward thinking about the future of the broad street building evident in the Rankin Centre proposals (now the 31 broad street project) be carried forward once outsourcing takes place?

Question 8

E Mayes

From the Hereford Library perspective it is crucial that the Broad Street building is improved from its current provision of 1500 square metres (housing both library and museum) to provide the 5000 square metres that is the sector norm for a City/County Library. Who will be responsible for this development following outsourcing?

Question 9

Mr H Porte

Currently there is a totally inadequate level of purchasing of new resources and the Hereford Library has a long history of stockholding deficiencies, as demonstrated by the CIPFA league tables which places Herefordshire in the bottom decile, where it has been for many years – How will this situation be improved post outsourcing?

Question 10

Mr J Llewellyn-Perkins

What arrangements will be made to ensure that LMA user groups can input to developments and work with the new service provider?