



Title of report: Review of New Hereford Library and Learning Resource Centre Location

Meeting: Cabinet

Meeting date: Thursday 20th July 2023

Report by: Cabinet member community services and assets

Supplementary information

Connected communities scrutiny committee met on 19 July 2023. The recommendations of the committee were as follows:

Resolved: That it be recommended to the executive that:

- a) Recommendations a) and b) in the Cabinet report be removed and the Maylords project paused rather than cancelled, pending the provision of a full business case for the Shirehall option, to ensure that the full capital and revenue cost implications are worked out, and to enable proper comparison of the two options, thus ensuring that adequate information is available to inform a decision that carries significant financial risks.
- b) Detailed consideration is given in the full business case for the proposed Shirehall development in relation to:
 - Decarbonisation of the Shirehall, in line with the council's existing commitment to become net zero carbon by 2030;
 - Clarifying the potential for expanding and enhancing the services provided, including providing indicative costings and indicating potential funding sources; and
 - Identifying and addressing potential impacts of any expanded and enhanced facilities and services, such as performance space, on commercial operators offering similar services to those envisaged at the Shirehall.

- c) The full business case addresses all of the 'Criteria for Review' points identified in the 'Scope of Review of New Hereford Library and Learning Resource Centre Location', with particular attention to ensuring that the criteria on Value for Money and Financial Viability are given adequate attention, given the concerning lack of information on these aspects in the report before Cabinet on 20 July 2023.
- d) Scrutiny is supported to ensure that the full evidence base underpinning future reports, especially financial information, is published in sufficient time; and that requests for information from scrutiny committee members are responded to in good time.
- e) An adequate Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is produced in respect of the potential decision to terminate the Maylord Orchards capital project.