

Proposals for the future of Cambridgeshire Library Services

The following proposals have been agreed by the County Council's Cabinet and will be presented to the full Council on 15th February for agreement:

- **Externalisation of the service to a charitable trust**, together with related services including archives, cultural services, and adult learning. The County Council would still be responsible for the service, but becoming a trust would unlock funding and savings that the Council does not currently have access to
- **A shared approach to the delivery of library support and specialised services** with four other local library authorities in order to make economies of scale
- **A new approach to service delivery** based on libraries working in groups, enabling more self service use of library services, and reducing the number of staff
- **Encouraging much greater community participation** in the management and running of library services through volunteering and acting on Friends Groups, Community Management Boards, and the Board of Trustees
- **Review of the library network** to make savings whilst ensuring a comprehensive and efficient service based on community need. This will include:
 - Exploring the potential for library services to join with other services as part of multi agency 'community hubs'
 - Inviting more communities to run their own library facilities, in a similar way to our existing community run Library Access Points
 - It may also result in some library closures, following careful assessment of the needs of local communities and the use made of libraries, if sufficient savings cannot be found from the above approaches

13 libraries have been selected for priority consideration, following an initial assessment of community need and library performance. These are:

- Bar Hill
- Buckden
- Comberton
- Cottenham
- Great Shelford
- Linton
- Milton Road
- Rock Road
- Sawston
- Sawtry
- Warboys
- Willingham
- Yaxley

As part of this, detailed public consultation will commence following the Council meeting on 15th February. This is expected to last some months, before final proposals are presented to Cabinet later in the year.

For further information please view details on our web site at

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/news/libservicereview/>

