

EXTRACT
CABINET
MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 2009

196. SOUTHPORT CULTURAL CENTRE - TEMPORARY LIBRARY SERVICE

The Cabinet considered the joint report of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environmental Services, the Finance and Information Services Director, Leisure Director and Head of Regeneration and Technical Services which provided details of the estimated costs identified for the adaptation works required to a number of potentially suitable venues to facilitate a temporary library service in central Southport, during the period of the redevelopment of the Southport Cultural Centre.

This was a Key Decision and was included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

In response to a question from Members of the Cabinet, the Legal Director reported that there was no provision within the Council Constitution for the Cabinet to overturn the decision taken by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) under Rule 17 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules for this decision to be treated as urgent and not subject to call in.

The Cabinet discussed the viability of the options set out in the report and it was accepted that the only options which could be practically implemented were the adaptation works to the Southport Market Hall and the use of the existing branch libraries in Southport. A vote was taken on the option to operate the temporary library service in the Southport Market Hall and in accordance with Rule 18.5 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, the following Councillors requested that their vote for and against the proposal be recorded, namely:

For the proposal (4) - Councillors Brodie Browne, Lord Fearn, Robertson and Tattersall.

Against the proposal (6) - Councillors P. Dowd, Fairclough, Griffiths, Maher, Parry and Porter.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the services and staff at the Southport Central Library be relocated at the Churchtown, Birkdale and Ainsdale Branch Libraries at no

additional cost, during the period of the redevelopment of the Southport Cultural Centre;

- (2) the Leisure Director submit a report to the Cabinet on the feasibility of providing a temporary IT service for library users in the Southport One Stop Shop; and
- (3) it be noted that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) had given his consent under Rule 17 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules for this decision to be treated as urgent and not subject to “call in” on the basis that it cannot be reasonably deferred because of the limited time available to spend the external grant, and the need to ensure that there is no risk to the Council from having any grant clawed-back and having to meet any difference from the Council’s own capital resources.