

## STOCKPORT COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET– SUMMARY SHEET

**Subject:** Stock Room

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**Report to Cabinet**

**Date: 7 Dec 2021**

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**Report of: (a)** Cabinet Member for Citizen Focus & Engagement, the Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance and the Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration:

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**Key Decision: (b) Y**

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Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency  (Mark with a Y if applicable)

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**Summary:**

To provide an update on progress with Stockport's Future High Street Fund project, Stockroom and seek support and approval on the proposals.

To update Cabinet on the recent consultation undertaken and seek approval to relocate the town centre library offer from Central Library into Stockroom.

To seek delegated authority:

- to appoint a contractor to deliver the refurbishment works and execute any necessary letter of intent or other agreement, pending resolution of the final contract, to maintain progress in connection with the redevelopment of Stockroom;
- to take the necessary steps to implement the strategy set out in this report;
- to approve an Operational Business Plan for Stockroom.

To provide an update regarding potential future uses of the existing Central Library Building and obtain approval to the proposed course of action set out in Section 10 to progress these.

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**Comments/Views of the Cabinet Member: (c)**

Cabinet Member for Citizen Focus & Engagement:

The proposals brought before Cabinet present the truly exciting opportunity to deliver a whole new public service offer for the residents of Stockport – providing a new learning and discovery hub at the heart of the town centre which will inspire, entertain and support all the people of the Borough. Part of this will bring the ability to transform the Central Library service into the 21st century with modern learning facilities. In line with ambitions set out in the Borough Plan, Stockroom will be a place that brings our communities together, celebrating our heritage and supporting people to achieve their ambitions.

Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance:

We have the opportunity with £14.5m of Future High Street Fund Government grant money to invest in a transformational scheme to improve public facilities and service offer in the heart of the town centre. This grant funding must not be jeopardised and used to deliver the excellent and transformational proposed scheme that was the basis of the bid which led to the successful award.

Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration:

The key principle of the Government's Future High Street Fund (FHSF) programme initiative was to transform High Streets and diversify uses from surplus redundant retail space which is a result of structural changes in the national retail sector. The high quality proposed scheme certainly does this and allows us to benefit from culture-led regeneration, while providing the necessary social infrastructure our town centre needs as we deliver thousands more homes and address the long-standing inequalities within the borough's centre and nearby. The proposals have been carefully designed to provide a vibrant and importantly easily accessible community hub of uses that all people and all ages will have the ability to use and enjoy in the centre of the town. In addition, the scheme will revitalise the wider town centre, as recognised by the successful FHSF grant award, and continue the economic growth of the town centre.

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### **Recommendation(s) of Cabinet Members: (d)**

The Cabinet are requested to:

Note the update on progress with Stockport's Future High Street Fund project, Stockroom and approve the proposals

Note the recent consultation undertaken and approve the relocation the town centre library offer from Central Library Building into Stockroom.

Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate and Support Services) in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Citizen Focus & Engagement, the Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance and the Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration:

- to appoint a contractor to deliver the refurbishment works and execute any necessary letter of intent or other agreement, pending resolution of the final contract, to maintain progress in connection with the redevelopment of Stockroom;
- to take all necessary steps to implement the strategy set out in this report;
- to approve the final Operational Business Plan for Stockroom.

Delegate authority to the Strategic Head of Service (Legal & Democratic Governance) to do all things necessary or incidental to the implementation of the resolutions at 17.1.3 [of the report, the above paragraph inc a-c].

Note the update provided on the potential future uses of the existing Central Library Building and approve the proposed course of action set out in Section 10 to progress these.

**In addition to the papers seeking decision and following Scrutiny Committees the Cabinet are also asked to consider the proposed:**

From the **Corporate, Resource Management and Governance Scrutiny Committee**, it was:-

RESOLVED – (5 for, 4 against) That the Cabinet be recommended to not proceed with the relocation of library services from Central Library.

From the **Children & Families Scrutiny Committee**, it was:-

RESOLVED – (1) (5 for, 4 against) That the Cabinet be recommended to not proceed with the relocation of library services from Central Library.

(2) That a site visit to both sites be arranged (proposed site for Stockroom and existing site of Central Library) to understand the scale and size of both sites, to understand what it means to have special educational needs and to understand their journey.

From the **Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**, it was:-

RESOLVED – (6 for, 3 against) That the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Cabinet do not proceed with moving library services from Central Library.

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**Relevant Scrutiny Committee** (if decision called in): **(e)**  
Corporate, Resource Management & Governance

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**Background Papers** (if report for publication): **(f)**

Contact person for accessing  
background papers and discussing the report

**Officer:** Paul Richards  
**Tel:** 0161-474-2940

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**'Urgent Business':** **(g)** **No**

**Certification** (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ and the Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/ Borough Treasurer for the decision to be treated as 'urgent business' was obtained on /will be obtained before the decision is implemented.

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