

## PROFORMA

### REFERRAL OF A KEY DECISION TO THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

For the attention of: Victoria Lower, Democratic Services & Scrutiny  
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Meeting: Cabinet  
Meeting Date: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Agenda Item No: 7

Key decision 2221CAB

#### Reasons for referral:

- i) The decision is outside of the Policy Framework: Yes
  - ii) The decision is inconsistent with the budget: Yes
  - iii) The decision is inconsistent with another Council Policy:
  - iv) Other: Please specify:
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#### ***The decision is outside of the policy framework***

“Our children and young people thrive and reach their full potential” is a stated priority of the council. During the consultation, residents will have to give their view on which – if any – of the three options presented ensure this is achieved. At the moment, the current proposal does not give residents sufficient information to do so:

- They cannot be sure what library opening hours will be and whether that suits the needs of children, young people and parents.
- They can give no measure of confidence that two of the three options are meaningful. The council is vague on what efficiencies would have to be found by a contractor under 6.5.
- Residents and community groups want to understand the human cost of each options. The current options are vague around job losses.

#### ***The decision is inconsistent with the budget***

Option 6.7 factors in a saving to the council because they will no longer have to pay business rates on the buildings. However, it is not clear:

- 1) Whether the community group would have to pay the business rate; or
- 2) The business rate is not paid. If so, the council will make a loss elsewhere and the option will not achieve the saving outlined.

**The outcome desired:**

1. To give scrutiny confidence that residents can meaningful assess what the impact of these options will be to the community
2. To give scrutiny confidence that the community groups will be able to meaningfully scope whether or not they could partner with the council to deliver library services
3. To give scrutiny confidence that residents have enough information to judge whether option 6.5 will deliver the necessary savings.
4. To give scrutiny confidence that delivering option 6.7 does not create shortfall elsewhere in the council's finances.

**Information required to assist the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to consider the referral:**

- Details of library running costs (broken down per library)
- More information on job losses
- A copy of the analysis conducted on the efficiencies carried out by Greenwich Leisure Limited
- Information on business rates income and the impact on the council's finances
- Evidence that the council has scoped potential commercial/community partners and believes these options are meaningful.

Signed: Gareth Streeter

Date: 18/05/2021

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Committee