

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES** held at County Hall, Matlock on 8 May 2018.

**P R E S E N T**

Councillor S Bull (in the Chair)

Councillors E Atkins, C Dale (substitute Member), K Gillott, L Grooby, T Kemp, P Makin and D Taylor (substitute Member)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors K S Athwal, J Dixon and H Elliott

Councillors D Allen, B Lewis and A Western also attended the meeting.

**10/18 CALL-IN OF DECISION – PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE STRATEGY** At its meeting on 5 April 2018, Cabinet considered and approved a report relating to the draft Derbyshire Public Library Service Strategy 'Libraries for Derbyshire'. The report sought approval to notify the Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) of the outline proposals contained within the draft strategy and to commence a 12 week consultation on the draft strategy.

In accordance with the provisions of the County Council's Constitution, Councillors Western, Allen, Atkins and Burfoot, had asked that the decision be called-in. It was their opinion that there was evidence which suggested that issues regarding the Cabinet report had not been handled in accordance with the decision-making principles set out in Article 15 – Decision Making of the Council's Constitution. The principles in question were: a presumption in favour of openness; and clarity of aims and desired outcomes. Councillors Anne Western and Beth Atkins had provided further comments in response to an invitation from the Director of Legal Services to provide further details of how they considered the principles of decision making had been breached. These were attached at Appendix 4 and 5 to the report.

Information was provided in support of their request and an explanation why they had called-in the decision. Mr D Gibbs and Councillor B Lewis presented information in support of the decision taken. The Deputy Director of Legal Services also attended the meeting to comment on the issues raised and respond to Councillors' questions.

The Committee considered the information that had been put before them and considered whether the decision had been made in accordance with the decision-making principles, as set out in the Constitution. The Chairman asked the Committee to vote on the officer's recommendation and Members

voted 5 to 3 in favour that the principles of decision-making had not been breached.

**RESOLVED** to agree that the decision made by Cabinet on 5 April 2018 to send notification of the outline proposals contained within the draft Derbyshire Public Library Service Strategy 'Libraries for Derbyshire' to the Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); and to commence a 12 week consultation on the draft strategy from 7 May 2018, had been taken in accordance with the decision-making principles and, therefore, no further action be taken on the call-in.