

## **CABINET**

Tuesday 28 November

## **RESPONSE TO PETITION**

### **Petition concerning 'Surrey's Performing Arts Library'**

It states: "We the undersigned value the unique service provided by Surrey's Performing Arts Library and call upon Surrey County Council to retain the service, with staff, on one site and in its current format for the benefit of all Surrey residents."

Submitted by Mr Ges Ray

Signatures: 2019

### **The Cabinet's response**

The County Council fully values and appreciates the contribution that the Performing Art Library (PAL) makes to resident wellbeing and wants to ensure a service that has a sustainable future. The growing demand for our services to vulnerable residents and the budget pressures on the Council mean that we must constantly re-think and look at ways to provide our services differently. We recognise that, given the importance of PAL to the wellbeing and community agendas of the county, it is crucial that access to the PAL collections continues to exist and be available to the arts community in Surrey. Officers have already identified solutions that would protect the functionality of the Performing Arts Library service and ensure there is continued availability to hirers.

The Communities Select Committee is fully engaged in developing a future business model for this specialist library and has developed further lines of enquiry for officers to pursue. Work is already underway on the following:

- Further evaluation work to cost a new IT system, better suited to the specific needs of a performing arts library;
- Further analysis of the current inter library loan systems and developing proposals to improve the financial viability of the performing arts aspect of the inter library loan service and evaluate the impact of withdrawing from the system;
- A range of revised pricing for PAL services which can be implemented in shorter and longer timescale;
- Officers are reviewing staffing costs to secure immediate savings and to investigate the use of volunteers.
- The creation of a wider forum to contribute to the way forward.

Officers will report back on progress to the Communities Select Committee at its meeting on 8 February 2018.

The ambition is to find a secure long-term solution for Surrey's PAL. The forum has already met on several occasions and if other partnerships arise that can ensure a sustainable operation for PAL, based on the current format and business model then we are open to giving such propositions the fullest consideration

**Ms Denise Turner-Stewart**  
**Cabinet Member for Communities**  
**28 November 2017**