

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

**Explore Libraries and Archives Mutual: Bi-annual Performance Update
2014/15**

Summary

1. This report updates Members on the performance of Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd (Explore) during the first 6 months of 2014/15.

Background

2. Explore was set up on 1 May, 2015 as a Community Benefit Society with exempt charitable status, jointly owned by staff and the community, with the aim of delivering a comprehensive and efficient public library service, increasing access to library services by providing excellent services, encouraging everyone to be a library member from birth, and giving York residents universal membership of all public libraries in England and Wales. Explore's vision is *to enable people to live fuller, more connected and engaged lives*.
3. Explore is tasked with making a major contribution to helping the Council engage with its communities, facilitating adult learning, getting people on line, promoting the health and wellbeing agenda, and supporting vulnerable people, e.g. housebound people and people with mental health issues.
4. £450k savings were made immediately on establishing Explore with a further £50k saving in 2015/16. This was achieved whilst maintaining paid staff in every library, ensuring no closures, and driving service improvement.
5. The Council has entered into a 5 year contract with Explore for the provision of services. The contract specification sets out the key requirements with respect to service levels including book stock, professional staffing, service points, and the outcomes to be achieved (see Annex 1).

6. The report from the Chief Executive of Explore (see Annex 2) sets out performance issues in the period to September 2014, and the relevant performance indicators are detailed in Annex 3.

Options

7. This report is for information and there are no options to consider.

Council Plan 2011-15

8. Explore contributes to a number of corporate objectives including developing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience York as a vibrant and eventful city, improving opportunities for learning, and in strengthening York's economy through investment in the tourism infrastructure.

Implications

9. **Finance:** The contract sum for the full year in 2014/15 is £1,942,000 (the actual payment reduced to reflect the 1 May start date). It reduces by £50k in 2015/16.
10. The report has no implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

Risk Management

11. This report is for information and there are no risks to consider.

Recommendation

12. Members are asked to comment upon the performance of Explore.
Reason: To help monitor the service received under the contract.

Contact Details

Authors:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director
(Communities, Culture and
Public Realm)

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Charlie Croft
Assistant Director (Communities, Culture and
Public Realm)

Fiona Williams
Chief Executive
Explore

Report Approved



Date

7.11.14.

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Schedule 2 of the Contract for the Provision of Services

Annex 2 - Report of the Chief Executive of Explore

Annex 3 - Performance Indicators to Quarter 2