

Explore Libraries and Archives Mutual: Bi-annual Performance Update 2016/17

Summary

1. This report updates Members on the performance of Explore York Libraries and Archives Mutual Ltd (Explore) during the second 6 months of 2016/17.

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 in establishing Explore. This was achieved whilst maintaining paid staff in every library, ensuring no closures, and driving service improvement.
5. The report from the Chief Executive of Explore (see Annex A) sets out performance issues in the period from November 2016 to date.

Options

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

Council Plan 2015-19

7. Explore contributes to a number of the council's 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

8. **Finance:** The contract sum for the full year in 2016/17 is £2,107,510.
9. The report has no implications relating to: Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology, Property.

Risk Management

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

Recommendation

11. That Members comment upon the performance of Explore.

Reason: To help monitor the service received under the contract.

Contact Details

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes

Annex A – Report of the Chief Executive of Explore