

## Shared Services Joint Committee Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Variation Notice: Libraries Support Services ADDENDUM</b>
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<b>Executive Member</b>	<b>Cllr Adam Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture &amp; Leisure, WNC Cllr Helen Howell, Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture &amp; Tourism, NNC</b>

- 1.1 The IAA Variation Notice for the disaggregation of the Libraries Support Services was presented to the Shared Service Joint Committee (SSJC) on 21st September 2022 with the recommendation to approve option 3. At that SSJC the IAA Variation Notice was deferred to the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 SSJC meeting with a request to add an option 4. This addendum therefore presents a fourth option.
- 1.2 Following further discussions between the Chief Executives and Leaders of WNC and NNC the IAA Variation Notice was further deferred to the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022, however this meeting was cancelled.
- 1.3 The recommendations (a – c) in the main report were subject to option 3 being approved. Following the discussions at the SSJC on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 the Committee preferred an option 4, to retain the hosted service with WNC.
- 1.4 The decision to remain as a hosted service will be reviewed again in September 2023 following which a report will be brought to Committee suggesting a way forward.

## Recommendations

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It is recommended that the Shared Services Joint Committee:

- a) Approve the recommendation to retain Library Support Service as a hosted service within WNC and provided to NNC.
- b) Approve that this position is reviewed in September 2023 with a view to disaggregating by April 2024.

### **1.5 Option 4 - Continue current hosting arrangement with WNC as providing and NNC as receiving Authority**

1.5.1 This option would mean that Library Support Service would continue and remain under a hosted arrangement with WNC as the provider and NNC as the receiver and provides a way to maintain a seamless customer experience with no reduction in service.

1.5.2 The disaggregation would be delayed until such time as proposed by the Directors of the service and/or revisited by the Shared Services Joint Committee.

1.5.3 Additionally to benefits of option 1 in the main report each authority will continue to have joint management of the head of service and as such is able to guide strategic vision for the libraries within their authority. They can continue to adapt services to meet their authority and locality needs together with all existing statutory requirements being met by both councils. This will ensure that service resilience is maintained.

1.5.4 Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) continues to be accessible to all customers countywide and more importantly in the current financial environment no burden of extra costs on either authority at a time when there is immense pressure on budgets.

1.5.5 There is a risk that if SSJC do not approve this option and disaggregation will need to go ahead as scheduled in line with one of the other options in the main report then this could impact the schedule as tasks that could have commenced may be delayed while awaiting the decision. This also places minor limitations on the management and strategic direction of each council's library service

1.6 Should SSJC decide to approve option 4 then there will be no additional funding requirements and the current IAA between NNC and WNC would continue.