

## **FULL COUNCIL MOTION – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

### **Motion: Securing the Future of Bristol's Library Service**

Council notes the proposals by the Mayor to reduce the amount of libraries in Bristol from 27 to 10 libraries.

Council understands the difficult financial situation that Bristol City Council faces and the need to reduce costs during a time of reducing budgets and increasing demographic demand.

Council welcomes the petition by Love Bristol Libraries, various other library groups and campaigners, and believes there is strong public support for maintaining Bristol's library provision.

Council notes the report from the Libraries Task and Finish Scrutiny Group, notes that it had input from all political parties and that the recommendations have the support of councillors from Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties. The report also received the endorsement of OSMB.

Council endorses the proposal to begin work on creating a mutual model (options to include trusts, Co-operatives, charitable organisations, prudential society models, not for profit models but not ones that are outsourced to private companies for the purpose of making money). This will ensure the delivery of a comprehensive library service that will be professionally led, volunteer supported and ensures a network of branch libraries is maintained across the city and is at the heart of our communities. These proposals will also guarantee the jobs of library staff providing them with a secure future working alongside volunteers.

Council calls on the Mayor to bring forward new proposals based on the long term future of Libraries, an important principle for the ambitions of a Learning City. This new proposal to have a strategic approach that delivers a professionally led mutual model that embraces volunteers and secures the future of the library network.

**Motion to be moved by: Cllr Anthony Negus (Cotham Ward)**