LIBRARIES NI
The Northern Ireland Library Authority

20 October 2011

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of the Authority held on Thursday 20 October 2011 at 2.00 pm in Lisburn City Library

PRESENT

Mr Nigel Macartney  Interim Chairperson
Councillor Mrs Anne Brolly
Mr Pat Carvill
Councillor Charlie Casey
Councillor Sam Cole
Councillor Miss Carla Lockhart
Mr Alastair McDowell
Ms Angela Matthews
Councillor Hubert Nicholl  Vice Chairperson
Councillor Mrs Evelyne Robinson
Councillor Jim Rodgers
Ms Helen Roulston
Ms Jane Williams

APOLOGIES FOR NON ATTENDANCE

Mr Roger Dixon
Councillor Allan Ewart
Councillor Seamus Shields

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive  Ms Irene Knox
Director of Service Delivery  Ms Helen Osborn
Director of Business Support  Mr Terry Heron
Assets Manager  Mr Desi Miskelly
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure  Mr David Polley
Business Manager Area A  Trisha Ward
Business Manager Area B  Mandy Bryson
Business Manager Area C  Adrienne Adair
Business Manager Area D  Muriel Todd

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

1.1 The Interim Chairperson reminded Members and Officers of the need to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest associated with any item on the agenda either now or at the relevant stage during the meeting. No interests were declared.
2. CHAIRPERSON’S BUSINESS

2.1 The Interim Chairperson welcomed members of the press who were in attendance at the meeting and informed them that under Standing Orders they may listen to the debate and discussion, but must remain silent and not interrupt the proceedings.

2.2 It was agreed that Items 5 – 9 on the Agenda should be deferred until the next meeting to enable Members to discuss more fully Item 10: Meeting the Demands for a Modern Public Library Service in Northern Ireland: Stage 2 Final Report.

2.3 Members were informed that the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) had published the advertisement for the position of Chairperson of Libraries NI.

2.4 The Interim Chairperson reported that DCAL required outstanding appraisals of Board Members to be completed and that he had been tasked with undertaking the appraisals. He informed Members that he would be in contact with them regarding this matter in the next few weeks.

3. CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S BUSINESS

3.1 The Chief Executive drew attention to the document which had been circulated and drew attention in particular to the following matters:

- A telephone call had been received from a member of the Save Moy Library Campaign to complain that posters that had been displayed in the windows of the floor above the library had been taken down by staff without the permission of the Group and the Campaign Group was aggrieved by this action. The Campaign Group had asked that Board Members be made aware of this incident

- a Special Board Meeting would take place on Wednesday 26 October at 1.30 pm to consider the final audited Annual Report and Accounts 2010/11 and to authorise the Interim Chairperson and Chief Executive to sign them. She encouraged as many Members as possible to attend

3.2 The Chief Executive also reminded Members of the following correspondence which had been circulated:

- a letter which Gilford Community Forum had asked to be made available to all Board Members

- a further submission from the Fintona Library Campaign Group with more details of their proposals
• a letter from the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee regarding the Stage 2 review of libraries.

4. MEETING THE DEMANDS FOR A MODERN PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: STAGE 2: FINAL REPORT (LNI 06.10.11)

4.1 The Interim Chairperson congratulated Ms Jane Williams on being elected as Chairperson of the Services Committee and asked her to present the Committee's report.

4.2 In presenting the draft Final Report, the Chairperson of Services Committee spoke in detail about the background and context of the review and described the consultation process that had taken place. She reminded Members of the reasons why the Review was being carried out, the criteria which had been used to assess the 77 libraries involved and the bandings into which the libraries had been grouped. She reported that during the public consultation period 11 public meetings had been held in the towns/villages where a library closure or clustering was proposed. Meetings had also taken place with local Councils, community groups, public representatives, Trades Unions and staff and there had been considerable correspondence with individuals and organisations. In addition 3 briefings had taken place with the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee and a number of deputations had been received by the Libraries NI Board. Members noted that a total of 6,179 responses had been received to the questionnaire and 1,408 people had attended the 11 public meetings. The Chairperson referred to the three workshops which had been held to enable all Board Members to consider in detail the results of the consultation process and thanked them for their engagement with that process.

4.3 The Chairperson of Services Committee drew attention to general issues that had arisen at the public meetings and the proposed response to them as detailed in the following paragraphs.

4.3.1 Vision
Members noted the feedback received during the consultation process regarding the particular needs of small rural communities and the high value placed by those communities on the core activities of book borrowing and computer access. It was agreed to amend the vision to include a third category of library where the provision should be articulated as follows:

Libraries open a minimum of 18 hours per week with some hours outside normal office hours and offering:
- Up to date stock in a variety of formats
- Public Access Computer Terminals (PATS), the number to be determined by the space available
- Activities to support learning, culture, information and heritage, commensurate with the space available

4.3.2 Mobile Library Service
Members noted the range of services encompassed within the term “mobile library service” and the comments received during the consultation process as well as the results of a recent survey of mobile library users which demonstrated very high levels of satisfaction with the service. Members recognised that a mobile library is not able to provide the full range of services which are available in a branch library but were of the view that it is an effective means of meeting the needs of users where the prime requirement is book lending and it is seen as a suitable mitigation in such circumstances.

4.3.3 Catchment Areas
Members noted the work that had been done to define catchment areas of libraries, following comments received during the public consultation process.

4.3.4 Rurality
The Chairperson reminded Members that, after the commencement of the public consultation process, revised guidance on best practice approaches to rural proofing had been published by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). Following discussion with DARD, training had been arranged for a number of Board Members and staff on the issues associated with rural proofing and subsequently information gathered during the public consultation process had been collated and analysed, together with information from a range of other sources. She referred Members to the Rural Impact Assessment which was included as an appendix to the Report and the range of measures available to mitigate the impact of a library closure.

4.3.5 Social Deprivation
Members noted that cognisance had been taken of comments received during the public consultation regarding high levels of social deprivation in some of the areas where libraries were being proposed for closure and that the Rural Impact Assessment recorded information from the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Index (NIMDM) 2010 relating to the catchment areas of each library. Members noted in particular that Gilford had been included as a pilot area in Phase 2 of the Areas at Risk Programme announced by the Department of Social Development (DSD).

4.3.6 Use of Volunteers
The Chairperson noted the suggestion that consideration should be given to the use of volunteers to run, or assist in running, libraries and drew attention to the policy which had been developed on the use of volunteers in libraries.
4.4 The Chairperson drew attention to the Equality Impact Assessment which was included as Appendix 4 to the Report, noting that the document had been updated to take account of comments received during the consultation.

4.5 Following discussion of the background information, Members agreed to consider each library in turn.

4.6 Carnlough Library

4.6.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the profile for Carnlough Library and, in particular, the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns.

4.6.2 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and work undertaken since the close of the consultation period, including written confirmation from Larne Borough Council that work was progressing to seek to acquire land at the rear of the Library to enable improvements to be carried out to the building.

4.6.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the options for Carnlough Library:

- Option 1 Close the Library
- Option 2 Retain the Library
- Option 3 Retain the Library subject to confirmation from the landlord (Larne Borough Council) of swift and decisive action within a specified timescale that they will carry out the necessary improvements to the building, as a minimum to meet legal requirements, including disabled access.

4.6.4 She also reported on the preferred option (i.e. Option 3) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis of:

- the rural isolation of Carnlough
- the commitment received from Larne Borough Council that action has been taken to seek to extend and improve the building
- the commitment shown by the community to bringing about improvements to the library through the priority given to it in the Village Plan
- the commitment given by the community to working in partnership with Libraries NI to ensure sustainability.

4.6.5 Subject to the Board agreeing the recommendation, realistic targets for usage would be established, in consultation with the local community, to ensure sustainability. Progress in relation to these targets would be reviewed in October 2012, at which stage the library would close, if substantive progress had not been made in addressing
the deficiencies in the building and/or the targets for usage had not been met.

4.6.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Councillor Mrs E Robinson, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Brolly, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

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4.6.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board.

4.7 Draperstown Library

4.7.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for Draperstown Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns.

4.7.2 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and work undertaken since the close of the consultation period.

4.7.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the options for Draperstown Library:

- Option 1 Close the Library
- Option 2 Retain the Library
- Option 3 Retain the Library pending further discussions with Workspace to assess the viability of their proposals regarding a partnership approach to provision, based in The Plantation Centre.

4.7.4 She also reported on the preferred option (i.e. Option 3) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis of:

- the track record of Workspace in developing successful community facilities
- the already well developed plans for integrated community provision in The Plantation Centre to provide a range of community provision, including adult learning facilities linked to the neighbouring High School.

4.7.5 Subject to the Board agreeing this option, realistic targets for usage would be established, in consultation with the local community, to ensure the sustainability of Draperstown Library while the plans being developed by Workspace are assessed. Progress in relation to these targets would be reviewed in October 2012, at which stage, also it would be expected that substantive progress would have been made by Workspace in developing cost-effective alternative proposals. If, at October 2012, library usage had not been sustained and/or the
Workspace plans were determined not to be viable, the library would close.

4.7.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Councillor H Nicholl, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Brolly, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

For 13
Against 0
Abstentions 0

4.7.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board.

_Councillor Cole left the meeting._

4.8 Fintona Library

4.8.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for Fintona Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns.

4.8.2 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and work undertaken since the close of the consultation period. The updated document provided by the Fintona Campaign Group was noted. Members discussed the condition of the building, noting that the space used by the library was adequate in the interim and there were no immediate risks posed by the condition of the roof.

4.8.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the Options for Fintona Library ie:
- Option 1 Close the Library
- Option 2 Retain the Library
- Option 3 Retain the library in the interim and continue to work in partnership with the Fintona Library Campaign Group to assess the viability of their proposals for an alternative approach to library provision in the village.

4.8.4 She also reported on the preferred option (i.e. Option 3) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis of:
- providing sufficient time for the Campaign Group to develop further their proposals and for an assessment to be carried out as to whether the proposed solution is achievable.

4.8.5 Subject to the Board accepting the recommendation, realistic targets for usage would be established, in consultation with the local community, to ensure the sustainability of Fintona Library while the plans being developed by the Campaign Group were developed and assessed. A substantive proposal must be produced by the Group by
March 2012, with a suitable building identified and a funding stream in place. Progress in relation to usage targets would be reviewed in October 2012. If, at October 2012, library usage had not been sustained and/or the Campaign Groups plans were determined not to be viable, the library would close and alternative provision would be put in place.

4.8.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Ms H Roulston, seconded by Councillor H Nicholl, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

For 12
Against 0
Abstentions 0

4.8.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board.

Councillor Cole returned to the meeting.

4.9 Gilford Library
4.9.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for Gilford Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns and that Gilford had been designated as an Area at Risk by the Department of Social Development.

4.9.2 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and work undertaken since the close of the consultation period. Correspondence from the Gilford Library Campaign Group was also noted.

4.9.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the Options for Gilford Library ie:
- Option 1 Close the Library
- Option 2 Retain the Library
- Option 3 Work in partnership with Banbridge District Council and the Community Development Group to develop and implement an innovative approach to the provision of library services that meets local needs, using the facilities which will be available in the new Community Centre, and close the current library building with effect from March 2012.

4.9.4 She also reported on the preferred option (i.e. Option 3) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis that:
- there is a willingness amongst Council officials to develop an integrated approach to the provision of services in the new Community Centre and a shared understanding of how the
Council and Libraries NI might work together to meet the needs of the community
- Libraries NI already works closely and successfully with the Council in relation to other library provision in the Council area
- the approach is supportive of the objectives of the Areas at Risk Programme.

4.9.5 In response to a question the Chief Executive confirmed that discussions about the preferred option had taken place only with the Chief Executive and other senior officers of the Council "on a without prejudice basis" and that the Council’s position remained that Gilford Library should be retained.

4.9.6 Councillor Miss C Lockhart asked that her opposition to the closure of Gilford Library be recorded. She indicated that the library was a shared community space located in a village designated as at risk and that, rather than close the library, Libraries NI should be investing in the building in order to improve it.

4.9.7 Members queried whether the new Community Centre, which was on site at present, would be ready by March 2012 and whether it was therefore premature to specify a date for the closure of the library. Members queried also the type of library service that could be provided from the Community Centre and noted that detailed discussions would need to take place with the Gilford Community Development Forum and the Council to clarify the arrangements.

4.9.8 Following discussion, on a proposal by Mr P Carvill, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Brolly, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

For 8
Against 5
Abstentions 0

4.9.9 The recommended option was adopted by the Board. In doing so the Board agreed that the closure date for Gilford Library should be revised if the completion of the new Community Centre was delayed.

Councillor Mrs Robinson left the meeting.

4.10 Greystone Library
4.10.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for Greystone Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures. She referred to the fact that Greystone Library was included in the consultation process because of a commitment given in the Business Case for the new library in Antrim that its future would be reviewed when the new library opened. Members noted the large catchment area which continued to
be served by the library and that usage levels had not declined to the extent that had been expected with the opening of the new library.

4.10.2 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and work undertaken since the close of the consultation period.

4.10.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the Options for Greystone Library:

- Option 1 Close the Library
- Option 2 Retain the Library subject to review in October 2013. The opening hours of the library should be reduced to 30 hours per week and there should be engagement with the users of the library as to the most appropriate pattern of use to meet local needs.

4.10.4 She also reported on the preferred option (i.e. Option 2) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis of:

- usage has not declined to the extent expected with the opening of the new library in Antrim
- there is strong cross community support for the library and it is seen as a shared space
- there is strong support from local schools who make good use of the library.

4.10.5 Subject to the Board accepting the recommendation it was noted that, in conjunction with the Library Action Group, targets on usage would be established to monitor sustainability in the long term.

4.10.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Councillor H Nicholl, seconded by Councillor J Rodgers, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

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4.10.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board.

4.11 **Kells and Connor Library**

4.11.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for the Kells and Connor Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns.

4.11.2 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and work undertaken since the close of the consultation period.
Councillor H Nicholl referred to the work carried out by the Community Association and its support for the library.

4.11.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the Options for the Kells and Connor Library ie:
• Option 1 Close the Library
• Option 2 Retain the Library subject to review in October 2013

4.11.4 She also reported on the preferred option (i.e. Option 2) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis that:
• there has been an increase in usage since commencement of consultation and usage continues to improve
• there is strong community support for the library
• the building is relatively new and in good condition.

4.11.5 Subject to the Board accepting this option, it was noted that, in conjunction with the local community, targets on usage would be established to monitor sustainability in the long term.

4.11.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Councillor H Nicholl, seconded by Councillor S Cole, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

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4.11.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board.

_Councillor H Nicholl left the meeting._

4.12 Killyleagh Library
4.12.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for Killyleagh Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns.

4.12.2 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and work undertaken since the close of the consultation period.

4.12.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the Options for Killyleagh Library ie:
• Option 1 Close the Library
• Option 2 Retain the Library on its current site
• Option 3 Retain the library on its current site in the interim, pending appraisal of the plans and costs for an
alternative location and the proposals received from the Friends of the Library, Kilyleagh (FOLK).

4.12.4 She also reported on the preferred option (i.e. Option 3) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis of:
- providing sufficient time for FOLK to develop further its proposals and for an assessment to be carried out as to whether the proposed solution is achievable, as well as to enable further discussions with the businessman in relation to the proposed alternative site.

4.12.5 Subject to the Board accepting the recommendation realistic targets for usage would be established, in consultation with the Action Group to ensure the sustainability of Kilyleagh Library while the plans being developed by FOLK were developed and assessed. A substantive proposal must be produced by FOLK by March 2012, with guarantees in relation to adequate funding in place to implement the agreed plans. Progress in relation to usage targets would be reviewed in October 2012. If at October 2012, library usage had not been sustained and/or the FOLK plans were determined not to be viable, the library would close and alternative arrangements would be put in place for the provision of library services.

4.12.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Mr A McDowell, seconded by Mr P Carvill, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

For 11
Against 0
Abstentions 0

4.12.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board.

_Councillor J Rodgers left the meeting._

4.13 Moneymore Library

4.13.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for Moneymore Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns and the key points raised at the public consultation meetings.

4.13.2 Concern was expressed about the condition and suitability of the building. Members noted also that the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) had previously undertaken a review of Moneymore Library and had proposed that it should be closed. In response to the proposed closure the Friends of Moneymore Library had been established with a view to ensuring increased and sustained
usage of the library and, given the proposals from the Friends Group, the SELB had decided not to close the library. While usage had increased at that time, it had not been sustained. It was noted that the Chief Executive and Director of Library Services had met with representatives of the Friends group during the consultation period. It was confirmed that Cookstown Council had made a submission to the consultation.

4.13.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the Options for Moneymore Library i.e:
- Option 1 Close the Library
- Option 2 Retain the Library

4.13.4 She also reported on the preferred Option 1 indicating that this option was recommended on the basis that:
- the premises are in poor condition and no suitable alternative location has been identified
- there is concern also, based on past experience, that increased use during the period when the library is seen to be under threat of closure is not sustainable in the long term.
- Moneymore is on the main road between Cookstown and Magherafelt, both of which have large, well-equipped libraries.

4.13.5 It was noted that in order to mitigate the impact of closure, in consultation with users, mobile library services would be provided in Moneymore, supplemented by outreach activities.

4.13.6 Following discussion and on a proposal by Mr P Carvill, seconded by Ms H Roulston, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

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4.13.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board. The Board agreed that Moneymore Library should close on 30 November 2011.

4.14 Moy Library

4.14.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for Moy Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns. Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and the presentation made by the campaign group when they attended as a delegation to the Board.

4.14.2 The Chairperson reported that Moy Library is the smallest public library in Northern Ireland and that space in the library is further
limited by the fact that it is split level with a ramp dividing the floor area. She referred also to the feasibility study that had been completed on the proposal from Dungannon and South Tyrone Council regarding a lift to provide access to the first floor, noting that the report showed that the installation of a lift, rather than increase space, would in fact reduce space on the ground floor and present problems in terms of access to the building. Members noted also that the installation of a lift would entail considerable expenditure for no demonstrable benefit.

4.14.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the Options for Moy Library ie:
   - Option 1    Close the Library
   - Option 2    Retain the Library.

4.14.4 She also reported on the preferred option (Option 1) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis that:
   - the library is not fit for purpose
   - the limitations in size and lack of scope to increase size, without incurring substantial additional costs mean that the vision for the modern public library service, as redefined for a small, rural community cannot be realised.

4.14.5 It was noted that in order to mitigate the impact of closure, in consultation with users, mobile library services would be provided in Moneymore, supplemented by outreach activities.

4.14.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Ms H Roulston, seconded by Mr P Carvill, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

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4.14.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board. The Board noted that the next nearest library is Dungannon Library, which is currently closed for major refurbishment and agreed that the closure of Moy Library should take effect on 31 March 2012 at which stage Dungannon Library is scheduled to re-open. The Board agreed also that officers should consult with the Council regarding options for the current premises when the library closes

4.15 Richhill Library
4.15.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the library profile for Richhill Library and in particular the suitability rating, the active membership and issue figures, the catchment area for the library and its ranking on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010. Members noted also the information provided on public transport to the neighbouring towns.
4.15.2 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings and work undertaken since the close of the consultation period.

4.15.3 The Chairperson drew attention to the Options for Richhill Library ie:
- Option 1 Close the Library
- Option 2 Retain the Library

4.15.4 She also reported on the preferred Option 2 (ie retain the library) indicating that this option was recommended on the basis that:
- the building is relatively new and is adequate to deliver the vision for a small rural library.

4.15.5 Subject to the Board approving this option, targets would be established, in conjunction with the Library Action Group, to ensure that usage continued to improve and that the library was sustainable in the long term. A review would be undertaken in October 2013.

4.15.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Councillor S Cole, seconded by Councillor Miss C Lockhart, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

For 10  
Against 0  
Abstentions 0

4.15.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board.

4.16 Armagh Cluster
4.16.1 The Chairperson of Services Committee referred Members to the information contained in the Report regarding the proposal to cluster 2 libraries in Armagh (ie Armagh Branch Library and the Irish and Local Studies Library) in a single building, as yet undetermined, in order to provide a more accessible, effective and sustainable service. Members noted the important role played by both libraries in the life of Armagh City and recognized the significance of the Irish and Local Studies material to the cultural offering of Armagh. The constraints imposed by the current accommodation were also noted.

4.16.2 Members noted also the ongoing discussions with Armagh City and District Council regarding possible locations.

4.16.3 Members noted key points raised at the public consultation meetings including:
- clustering should not lead to any diminution in service
- the needs of the users of the two libraries are different
- heritage provision should remain in Armagh

4.16.4 The Chairperson drew attention to the options for the Armagh Cluster ie:
• Option 1  Adopt the principle of clustering services
• Option 2  Retain the status quo
• Option 3  Relocate the heritage provision.

4.16.5 She also reported on the preferred option (i.e. Option 1) indicating that this option was recommended because:
• it would provide enhanced access to services
• it is appropriate for heritage provision to remain in Armagh because of the historic nature of the City and the opportunity to contribute to its cultural and heritage tourism offering and to work in partnership with other heritage institutions in the city
• it will offer the most cost effective option.

4.16.6 Following discussion, on a proposal by Mr A McDowell, seconded by Ms A Matthews, Members voted on the preferred option. Voting was recorded as follows:

For 10
Against 0
Abstentions 0

4.16.7 The recommended option was adopted by the Board. The Board also agreed that discussions should take place with Armagh City and District Council and the Southern Education and Library Board regarding a possible location for the services and other potential options for a suitable location should also be explored. Progress on finding a suitable site would be reviewed in March 2012.

4.17 The Chairperson of Services Committee drew attention to the Equality Impact Assessment and the Rural Impact Assessment. It was noted that mitigating actions in relation to the agreed library closures would include provision of mobile library services, Homecall Services for those who were physically unable to access a static library or visit a mobile stop and the development of appropriate outreach services, in conjunction, where possible with other service providers in the relevant areas and local organisations. Members noted that an Action Plan would be developed to take forward the decisions of the Board and that regular reports on progress would be made to the Board, via the Services Committee.

4.18 On a proposal by Ms J Williams, seconded by Ms A Matthews, the Board adopted the report entitled Meeting the Demands for a Modern Public Library Service in Northern Ireland – Stage 2: Final Report, including the Equality Impact Assessment and the Rural Impact Assessment.

4.19 The Interim Chairperson of the Board thanked the Chairperson of Services Committee for her presentation. He also expressed thanks to all Board Members for their engagement with the process. He expressed regret that it had been necessary to close 3 libraries, but
acknowledged the direction given by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, at the establishment of Libraries NI to review library provision across Northern Ireland to ensure a sustainable, fit for purpose and cost-effective library estate.

5. **ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

5.1 Members considered a draft press release relating to the decisions taken at the Board meeting.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6.1 Members noted dates for future meetings as follows:

- Wednesday 26 October 2011 at 1.30 pm in Lisburn City Library to receive and approve the final audited Annual Report and Accounts 2010/11

- A Board Meeting will be arranged in late December to consider the outcome of the consultation on opening hours

- Thursday 19 January 2012 – venue to be confirmed.

7. **MEMBERS' ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES**

7.1 The meeting ended at 4.15 pm.

7.2 All Members arrived for the commencement of the meeting and remained until it ended with the exception of the following:

Councillor C Casey arrived at 2.08 pm

Councillor Mrs E Robinson left at 3.35 pm
Councillor H Nicholl left at 3.42pm
Councillor J Rodgers left at 3.48 pm

Signed: ____________________

Dated: 21st December 2011