



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism

External Funding Panel – 2 October 2019

### **MALD Welsh Government – Gorseinon Library Refurbishment Grant Programme (Expression of Interest)**

<b>Purpose:</b>	To make an expression on interest to apply to the Welsh Government, Museums Archives and Libraries Division Capital Grant Programme 2020/21, to redesign and remodel public space area at Gorseinon Library to accommodate Housing interview rooms, improved public toilet facility and to maintain and enhance good quality library service provision.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Services in the Community
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal. MALD Cultural Services Housing Department
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) External Funding Panel approve this expression of interest to submit a formal application for funding for £180,000 match funded at 10% from library revenue funding during 2020/21
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<b>Finance Officers:</b>	Adele Harris & Gaynor Winsor
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Caritas Adere
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The library service has 17 library sites one of which is at Gorseinon. This is the third biggest library and provides a service for a wide geographic

area around North Gower, Loughor, Grovesend, Penyrheol, Penllergaer, Kingsbridge and surrounding areas.

- 1.2 Gorseinon Library is the third busiest libraries and is relied on to provide much of the key performance indicators which we report to the Welsh Government as part of the Welsh Public libraries standards and quality framework.
- 1.3 Maintaining space, service delivery and access to collections is essential for the long term delivery of library services in Swansea.
- 1.4 Accessing this funding will help housing and library services build a space they can work together in and look to developing new working practices in the future and new innovative ways of working.

## **2. Project Proposal**

- 2.1 This project hopes to put in place funding to create a more positive and beneficial change to the library space to accommodate the new needs of the Housing department who will be sharing library space in the future. This funding opportunity could transform the space in a way internal budgets could not do so and which without could result in a smaller library service function delivered from the public space.
- 2.2 Good design and good use of current space can provide an outcome which the local residents, current library customers and housing tenants can use effectively and productively.
- 2.3 The project would create zoned areas reflecting library needs as well as developing shared staff working spaces and two interview rooms for private housing discussions and other associated activities. Improved digital self service solutions would be introduced and digital information screens and e-resource promotion activities.
- 2.4 This project if successful would need to start after April 2020 and be completed before January 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. See Appendix B for full Application

## **3. Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

3.2 An EIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a ***full EIA report was not required at this stage but would need to be completed if the project application is successful:***

- This is an application for an Expression of Interest to be considered for funding. If successful it will go to the next round of the application process. If successful this project will allow access to funding to reduce impact on services and help enhance future service delivery.
- See Appendix C for initial EIA screening.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 This expression of interest application will apply for £180,000 of funding 10% of which will be match funded from service revenue budgets and in kind spending.

4.2 Match Funding of 10% can be found from existing revenue budgets and existing budgets used to match expenditure eg books, expected replacement IT hardware, equipment etc.

4.3 There is a commitment for maintaining the library at the site for 5 yrs following receipt of this funding should the application be successful.

4.4 See Appendix A

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 The Council will need to ensure that it complies with all terms and conditions attached to the Welsh Government grant funding, including the commitment to maintain the library at the site for 5 years following receipt of the funding.

**Background Papers:** None

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Financial implications

Appendix B – Application form

Appendix C – EIA Screening Form