

To receive a report on the Home Library Service and consider any actions and associated expenditure

Before the last Library Committee meeting we were informed that Cornwall Council are withdrawing from the Home Library Service and offering the ability to devolve it to Town and Parish councils.

Library Committee Members asked CC for further details, but few were available.

This service is community asset run between the library service and the WVS (women's voluntary service). Volunteers take books to housebound people and collect them when they are finished. There are 5 volunteers in our district visiting 6 members of the public. 4 in Saltash, 1 in Callington, and 1 in St Ann's Chapel. There seems to be an element of befriending alongside the books. As an example one lady of 92, who lives in St Ann's Chapel relies on the service.

Cornwall Council will continue to cover traveling expenses and any DBS checks that may be necessary until the end of March 2023.

This leaves Saltash Town Council with the decision to either:

1. Refuse to take over the service and be responsible for it coming to an end;
2. Work up a Town Council policy on the approach, covering traveling expenses from the library to the door, but not inside the house, which will mean the service continues for our residents.

STC insurance policy covers the service at no extra cost.

The Community Hub Team Leader confirmed the service will not increase the library workload.

There is no Library Precept budget code to cover potential cost in the new financial year, this is something the Library Sub Committee would need to consider and vire within their budget, at the next Library Sub Committee meeting.

End of Report
Councillor Dent
Chairman of the Library Sub Committee