

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR TOURISM, CULTURE AND HERITAGE TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2015

Visit Isle of Wight

The council is continuing to work in partnership with Visit Isle Of Wight (VIOW) and given continuing budget pressures is looking to support alternative sources of funding to support VIOW and its activities. This is why the council is supporting VIOW's proposal to develop a Destination–Business Improvement District (or D-BID) for the whole Island. This will enable businesses in the tourism and retail sectors to fund activities which will improve the Island as a tourism destination and could include beach cleaning and blue flags, lifeguards and investment in the appearance of our town centres. VIOW has started to engage with businesses on this initiative and further reports will be considered by the Executive to ensure the D-BID is being supported by the majority of businesses as well as complementing the on going work of the council around the public realm.

Libraries

The consultation period on the proposed changes to the Library Service to meet the council's budget challenges has now ended and the results are being compiled by officers to inform the council's decision making in the near future.

The County Record Office

Members of the Executive and officers recently met with representatives of the National Archives to discuss the council's plans for the future storage of public records. It was a helpful and constructive meeting and some good advice was given to the council on how it can best source grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to take the project forward. A report from the National Archives outlining the conclusions and advice of the visit is expected shortly.

Councillor Ian Stephens

Executive Member for Tourism, Culture and Heritage