



## Cabinet

14 January 2026

## REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

**Subject Heading:**

Comments of Overview and Scrutiny Board on Requisition of Cabinet Decision – Future Proposals for Former Library Premises

**SLT Lead:**

Gavin Milnthorpe – Deputy Director of Legal Services

**Report Author and contact details:**

Anthony Clements – Committee Services Manager  
anthony.clements@onesource.co.uk

**Policy context:**

The report deals with a statutory process.

**Financial summary:**

There is no significant financial impact from the statutory process as these requirements are being met by existing budgets.

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well    **X**

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy    **X**

Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council

## **SUMMARY**

Following the recent upholding of a requisition of a Cabinet decision and using its Constitutional powers under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Overview and Scrutiny Board has made a series of comments and recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet is required to respond to each of these.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Cabinet confirms whether it wishes to reconsider the original Cabinet decision and responds to the following recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board:**

- 1. Clarity should be given on whether the Gidea Park site is large enough to accommodate the planned Respite Centre and whether the site is too close to that of the proposed Special School.**
- 2. More detail and clearer definitions should be given on the type of disabilities catered for at the Respite Centre and how existing respite care opportunities are used by Havering residents.**
- 3. More information should be given about the position at the Harold Wood site when the three year break clause is reached. Any final decision on the longer term position should be brought to Members well before the three year point is reached.**
- 4. Whilst acknowledging the Council's Scheme of Delegation, future decisions on the former library sites should be taken by officers but in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s). There should also be a lower financial threshold for the point at which decisions such as these should be considered by Cabinet.**
- 5. Final decisions on the use of the former library sites must be taken at Cabinet level and there should be a separate recorded decision for each site. This latter point reflects the fact that the future plans for each site are markedly different and will have different consequences for each area.**
- 6. Business plans for the use of the former library sites should be brought for scrutiny at the first opportunity and also presented to Cabinet before any decision on disposal or repurposing of the sites takes place.**
- 7. The scoring of options should be included in the business cases for the sites in order that the financial benefits to the Council of any preferred option are more clearly identified.**

8. **Minutes of the Area Based Asset Review Process meetings in relation the former library sites process should be made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Board.**

## REPORT DETAIL

At its meeting on 8 January 2026, the Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed, by six votes to 2 with one abstention, to uphold the requisition of the Cabinet Decision of 10 December 2025 re Future Proposals for Former Library Premises.

Under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, a report must be submitted to Cabinet giving the Board's comments and recommendations on the proposals. These are shown above and Cabinet is required to give a response to each of these as well as indicate whether it wishes to change or continue with the original Cabinet decision.

## IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

**Financial implications and risks:** None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded to consider revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

**Legal implications and risks:** None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded to consider revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

**Human Resources implications and risks:** None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded to consider revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

**Equalities implications and risks:** None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded considering revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

**Environmental and Climate Change implications and risks:** None of this report which purely seeks an initial response from Cabinet. Should Cabinet be minded to consider revised proposals in response to the Board's recommendations, these may require a separate report with full implications.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.