

**Cabinet – 19 March – Response to Public Questioner not present at the meeting**

4.

**Questioner:** Mr J Welby

**Asked of:** Councillor Keith Ferry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business, Planning and Regeneration

**Question:** “Can Bob Lawrence Library be saved? I have recently been told that I would receive figures from the Council. I have still not been provided with up to date accurate figures as told in a recent letter.

As Gayton Road Library will be vacated to the library on the Old Post Office site fund would be available to cover the running cost costs for proposed library closures for at least one year. The sole value of Gayton Road Library would be in excess of £1.5 million pounds. Also the costs for the new library would be covered by the development.”

**Written Response:** I am assured by officers that financial information regarding Bob Lawrence Library has been passed to you and to those involved in the community management proposal. We consider those figures to be detailed enough for a proposal to be made – indeed we have already received one for the library.

In terms of Gayton Library, I am delighted to say that we are indeed in negotiations with the developer for a brand new Town Centre Library on College Road and a planning application has already been submitted for a 1,600sqm library as part of a mixed development. However, it should be noted that the current Gayton Library premises which is in St John’s Road (not Gayton Road) are not owned by the Council. The build costs of the new library will indeed hopefully be met by the new development on the Old Post Office site but ongoing revenue costs (staff, utilities, services, books etc.) would not.