

COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

16 MAY 2023

With reference to the minute of meeting of the Council of 26 April 2023, the Committee had before it a Notice of Motion by Councillor Tissera in the following terms:-

That the Council agrees to:-

- Notes the decision taken by the Administration to deny the public a voice at the last Council meeting;
- Notes the Administration have agreed to shut 6 well-loved libraries in our city, 2 of which are in the ward of Councillor Hazel Cameron;
- Notes that libraries are community facilities with many uses, including helping teach children to read and notes Aberdeen City Council's active support for libraries on their website specifically saying children are never too young to join the library;
- Notes the words used by Councillor Hazel Cameron when defending library closures "that buildings will not teach your children to read" and strongly disagrees with this position; and
- Affirms the benefits of libraries in helping children learn to read.

Councillor Tissera moved her Notice of Motion and explained the rationale behind her request. Councillor Bonsell seconded the Notice of Motion.

The Convener seconded by Councillor Greig, moved as an amendment:-
that the Committee take no action.

On a division, there voted:- for the motion (6) – Councillors Bonsell, Brooks, Cross, Graham, Mrs Stewart and Thomson; for the amendment (7) – the Convener, the Vice Convener, Councillor Delaney, the Depute Provost; and Councillors Clark, Copland, Greig and McLellan.

The Committee resolved:-
to adopt the amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 34.1, Councillor Graham intimated that he would like this matter to be referred to full Council in order for a final decision to be taken. Councillor Graham was supported by Councillors Bonsell, Brooks, Cross, Mrs Stewart and Thomson.