



**Minutes of The Library, Arts, Business and Information Services Committee meeting held
on**

Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 7.00 pm in the OP Rooms

Present: Cllrs: Gilbert (Mayor), Conway (Deputy Mayor), Young (Chairman),
Lankston (Vice Chairman), Anston-Race, Gordon,

In attendance: Cllrs Heaton, Soanes, Tremain
Ewan Murray (VIC Manager – minutes)

2605/01 Apologies for Absence

No declarations were made

2605/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2605/03 Public Representation Session

In addition to councillors, one member of public was in attendance. No representations were made.

2605/04 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2026 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

2605/05 Financial Report

It was **noted** that:

- i. The VIC is on budget for the current financial year.
- ii. Councillors receive VIC financial reports via the F&GP Committee paperwork.

2605/06 Report from VIC Manager

The committee **noted** content the report, which had been previously circulated including:

- i. Safeguarding and lone-working in the VIC
- ii. Changes to staffing
- iii. Cllr Young gave an update on the Lawrence House Museum Project

2605/07 Update of Broader LABI Activities

The committee **received written updates** from the Library Manager including:

- i. The current newsletter
- ii. A list of current events and activities
- iii. A staffing update

2605/08 Current library condition

The committee received a written summary from the Library Manager and **noted** the following:

- i. Despite gallant efforts by both officers and contractors, the condition of the building continues to be a concern in relation to staff working conditions.
- ii. The full assessment reports, which were the source of the summary update, should be circulated to councillors.
- iii. This subject should be an agenda item at the next Estates and Properties' Committee.
- iv. The committee welcomed the progress on the new library hub with the work now at to tender as when completed, this will ameliorate the current concerns.
- v. Cllr Conway requested it be noted that *'Barclays needs to move forward at the earliest opportunity'*.

2605/09

Connect Launceston

The committee **noted** a project-progress update by Cllr Gordon including:

- i. There is new and widespread support from Cornwall Council and Cornish MPs.
- ii. Shortly, there will be a press release and the project is being broadcast on BBC Spotlight in the near future.
- iii. The inclusion of freight improves the Benefit Cost Ratio to 'greater than 2', putting it in the same category as Northern Powerhouse Rail.

It was **resolved** that, the Connect Launceston working party will be consulted on a possible project name change, and the recommendation be presented to full council at the June 2026 meeting for adoption or otherwise.

Proposed: Cllr Gordon

Seconded: Cllr Young

Carried

2605/10

Launceston Show 2026

It was **resolved** that LTC and related groups will be represented as follows:

- i. Lawrence House Museum will have an independent 6m x 6m pitch and will be responsible for staffing that pitch.
- ii. Connect Launceston will have an independent 6m x 6m pitch which will be staffed by members of the working party
- iii. By the end of May, the VIC Manager will circulate a timetable and location chart for the day, to establish which councillors are able to participate in a councillor surgery.
- iv. The library will not participate in the 2026 show, but will undertake a series of events in key locations within the town, over the summer months.

Proposed: Cllr Young

Seconded: Cllr Lankston

Carried

2605/11

Items to note and any urgent matters (information only)

- i. Councillors asked for clarification about the recent tenders for the new library hub.

- ii. Relating to the paperwork previously circulated by the Town Clerk, the VIC Manager clarified there are two separate tenders but that both link to the new library hub project.
- iii. One is a tender brief for a Project Manager RIBA Stages 4 – 6 with a value of £48,000 (including VAT)
- iv. The second is a tender brief for an Architect Led Design Team RIBA Stages 4 – with a value of £270,000 (including VAT)
- v. The professional and technical aspects are being coordinated by TH Associates, who are also supporting with the museum project.

2605/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 7 July 2026 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm

Signed :

Date:

DRAFT