

(15) Mr R Bremner

To the Leader of the Council

You organised a seminar to consider a new vision for libraries in Highland as a progressive, modern, and visionary service. As Leader of the Council I am aware of your very keen personal interest, support and understanding of the need to provide a libraries service for the 21st century. Any initiatives are likely to require a new funding and/or organisational model to facilitate change and grow capacity within the service, to enable libraries to build social and cultural capital, as well as build resilience in every community throughout Highland. Can you advise what progress has been made and what the next stages are in this process, please?

Following our seminar on Libraries I had further discussions with High Life Highland around consulting the library staff and collating their views. Once this has been done, we then need to convene a second seminar where we can bring speakers from home and/or abroad who can fuel our imagination about what might be possible. We then need to discuss possibilities for development and of course sources for both revenue and capital budgets.

I do accept this has taken longer than I would have wished, however we now need to set the direction for taking this great project forward.