

Question from Councillor Dilys Neill to Councillor Tony Dale, Cabinet Member Economy and Council Transformation

With reference to item 14 on the agenda.

While Stow Town Council has been aware that funding for the Visitor Information Centre was being reviewed, it was only on 14th July that the clerk was notified that the recommendation to Cabinet would be for funding to be withdrawn from September. This does not give time for this to be discussed with all the Town Councillors & for a considered response to be returned.

In Stow, the VIC is housed within the library & funding for the VIC contributes to the viability of the library. Your report shows that in 2022, there were on average about 900 visitors per week to the library / VIC. Withdrawal of funding for the VIC means that it is likely that the library will have to reduce or even close its services.

What discussions have taken place between CDC, GCC who are responsible for the library & Cotswold Tourism to ensure that these popular services (library & VIC) remain viable?