

**4 July 2019****Agenda Item:5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND COMMUNITIES****REVIEW OF LIBRARY OPENING TIMES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for revised public library opening times as outlined in appendix 1.

**Information and Advice****Context**

2. The County Council Strategy for Nottinghamshire's Libraries outlines priorities for the service for 2012 - 2022.
3. The strategy has key pledges including:
  - putting libraries at the heart of communities
  - libraries being where people live
  - increasing community involvement
4. The County Council maintains a network of 60 static libraries and 3 mobile libraries and has an ongoing commitment to retaining and maintain the library network and range of services delivered.
5. Inspire – Culture, Learning and Libraries is the charitable community benefit society established in April 2016, which is contracted by the County Council to deliver a range of services on behalf of the council, including the public library service.
6. The County Council remains the 'Library Authority' with the obligation to meet its statutory library duties as outlined in the 1964 Museum and Libraries act.
7. Inspire has a contractual obligation to deliver an agreed level of library opening hours across the county, and at each library site. It therefore requires council approval to make changes to opening hours.
8. Inspire currently contractually delivers 1487 hours of public access to the library service per week. The proposals outlined in appendix 1 will increase total opening hours to 1525 hours.
9. Inspire has undertaken a detailed review of opening times, using footfall data, local staff knowledge and customer feedback to inform the proposed changes.

10. Local County Councillors have been consulted on proposals outlined in the report and feedback has been taken into account.
11. The proposed pattern of opening hours has taken into consideration a number of factors; including the inconvenience of lunch time closing, times of low uptake, customer demand, changes in retail shopping trends and patterns of anti-social behaviour. Opening at lunch times and adding additional day time sessions have been proposed where possible.
12. This review is part of a wider staffing deployment review which will, alongside changes in opening hours be implemented in September 2019.
13. A review of the effectiveness of the changed opening hours will be undertaken in March 2020.

### **Other Options Considered**

14. A range of options were considered, including no change, additional late nights and / or earlier opening.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

15. The proposals increase overall access to the library service, are based on detailed analysis of data, and will provide more consistent and logical opening patterns.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

17. An associated staffing review will generate savings as required within the Inspire contract sum.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) The revised pattern of library opening hours, as outlined in Appendix 1, be approved and implemented in September 2019

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Place and Communities**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (SLB 20/5/19)**

18. Communities and Place Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report

**Financial Comments (SES 26/4/19)**

19. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- A strategy for Nottinghamshire's Libraries, December 2012  
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/policy-library/38835/libraries-strategy>

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- ALL