

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES AND CULTURE**

### **UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LIBRARIES**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Committee on the continuing development of community partnership libraries across Nottinghamshire.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Context**

2. The business case approved by Full Council in February 2014 identified the development of community partnership libraries (CPLs) as making a contribution to the £1m worth of savings identified at that point for the Libraries, Archives and Information Group of Services.
3. CPLs are a form of community managed libraries delivered through partnership with local bodies and groups to support the continuing sustainability of local library services.
4. The Council's 'Redefining Your Council' strategic vision re-affirmed the Council's approach to the development of community partnerships to ensure a sustainable network of libraries, without the threat of closure. The approach is a voluntary involvement of communities in the creation of bespoke partnerships to ensure and embed the sustainability of small community libraries.
5. Work to develop CPL approaches with individual communities indicates that, thus far, there is no community desire to develop stand-alone independent community managed libraries, and that access to an ongoing support package from the County Library service is crucial to the ongoing development of CPLs.
6. Communities are, however, interested in working with the County Council to provide volunteer opportunities, co-locate services into shared buildings and advocate in the community for greater engagement for future opportunities.
7. Since the previous CPL update to Committee in September 2015, the following progress has been made:

- a) **Annesley Woodhouse Library** – a partnership with the Acacia Community Association has been established. A fully operational CPL was launched in March 2016.
- b) **Blidworth Library** – positive initial discussions with the Parish Council have taken place with significant interest in developing a community hub in the current library building. Further analysis of community need, funding options and CPL potential is underway.
- c) **Collingham Library** – a partnership with Collingham Parish Council to co-locate the library within a new Parish Hub has been established, with the CPL opening in November 2015. Current work is to increase the level of volunteering and improve overall access through increased opening hours. A second Library Access Point (LAP) was opened in Coddington in February 2016.
- d) **Edgewood Library** – there a developing partnership with Edgewood Primary School (in which the library is based). Some building access issues and self-service elements are still to be agreed.
- e) **Gotham Library** – there is a developing partnership with the Memorial Hall Committee to establish a CPL. Work to develop volunteering and increase access capacity is underway.
- f) **Jacksdale Library** – two potential CPL locations are currently being explored with the community, both involving the potential relocation of the library into community facilities.
- g) **Langold Library** – Inspire staff will be attending the Parish Council meeting in December 2016 to discuss CPL concepts.
- h) **Lowdham Library** – Proposals to partner with the Village Hall Committee and re-locate the library into the village hall are progressing well. Public engagement to establish greater community input will be undertaken during the autumn of 2016.
- i) **Misterton Library** – a partnership with Misterton Parish Council is progressing and will involve the co-location of the parish centre into the existing Library. The Parish Council will lease the current library space from the County Council and then host the library, and develop volunteering to sustain the service. This will be operational during Autumn 2016, once formal leasing terms are agreed between the County Council and the Parish Council.
- j) **Sutton-on-Trent Library** – a volunteer based partnership with Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council and Library Action Group has been agreed in principle, with the intention of the CPL being “live” in January 2017.
- k) **Tuxford Library** – the Library was re-located to the local primary school and opened to the public in November 2015. Work to increase volunteer engagement is ongoing.

- l) **Woodthorpe Library** – initial talks with local volunteers linked to the Parish Church have taken place. The potential to develop a community hub facility within current Library building is being explored.
- 8. Initial community discussions have also taken place in relation to the following libraries: Bircotes, Burton Joyce, East Leake, Gedling, Ladybrook and Sutton Bonnington.
- 9. Project management and capacity to develop CPLs is being prioritised by Inspire. An action log of all discussions and approaches in relation to CPLs has been maintained and is available to key staff.
- 10. The Council's community engagement team has also been involved where appropriate to support the capacity within communities to participate in and develop sustainable CPL approaches.
- 11. A formal programme board structure is being established to manage the CPL initiative, drawing in key stakeholders from the Council's Property, ICT and Community Engagement teams, the Council's Cultural Services Commissioning Manager and Inspire library staff.

#### **Other Options Considered**

- 12. The report is for noting only.

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

- 13. The report is for noting only.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

- 14. 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**

- 15. The successful development of CPLs will contribute towards the £1M savings required as set out in Outline Business Case B13.
- 16. Capital investment requirements are included within the Council's capital programme.

#### **Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

- 17. This scheme enables ongoing provision of a static library service provision across Nottinghamshire. Alternative accommodation would need to safeguard physical access and provide a minimum of current opening hours. Service agreements require

partners to adhere to the County Council's libraries customer and service standards, including universal free access, and stock policy.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the update on the development of Community Partnership Libraries across Nottinghamshire be noted.

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## **Constitutional Comments**

18. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

## **Financial Comments (TMR 08/08/16)**

19. As this report is for noting only, no Financial Comments are required.

## **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.

Annual Budget 2014/15 – report to Full Council on 27 February 2014

Update on the development of Community Partnership Libraries – reports to Culture Committee on 3 June 2014 and 22 September 2015

## **Electoral Division Affected**

All.

C0868