

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, YOUTH, FAMILIES & CULTURE****ANNESLEY WOODHOUSE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LIBRARY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the development of the Annesley Woodhouse community partnership library.

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

2. The library at Annesley Woodhouse is currently sited in a church hall at the extreme edge of the village. The property is leased from the Trustees of St John's Parochial Church Council.
3. The library is open for 10 hours per week, issues around 8,000 items and has 3,350 visitors per annum.
4. In January 2009 a report was presented to the then Culture portfolio holder identifying that the current provision in the church hall required relocation due to the poor condition of the building and provided five options for the future provision of library services in Annesley Woodhouse.
5. The approved option was to co-locate the library in the proposed new community centre on Acacia Avenue and resourced within the County Council's capital programme.
6. Since then the new community centre, The Acacia Centre, has been developed through both asset transfer from Ashfield District Council and funding from the BIG lottery fund.
7. The building of an additional library building at an estimated cost of £90,000 in the form of an extension to the new community centre was designed and approved by the key stakeholders.
8. During 2012, due to delays in delivering the original scheme, the library service and Ashfield Community Radio and Media Training (ACRMT) reviewed the scheme in the context of greater integration into the core activity of the community centre and the location of the proposed library in relation to other activity in the community centre.

9. The proposed solution is to develop the library space at the centre of the community centre using current office space rather than the original proposal which would result in the library being located in a poor position within the centre.
10. In order to replace the loss of office space taken by the library, an additional office would be added to the centre to counter balance the loss of the office space. This option has been designed and an initial tendering exercise undertaken by Ashfield District Council has reduced the overall costs of the scheme by around £20,000.
11. Since this development the outline business case for Libraries and Archives has been approved. This business case outlines the development of a new form of Community Partnership Library (CPL) which aims to sustain small community libraries in partnership with the community, whilst reducing the County Council's costs.
12. Annesley Woodhouse Library is ideal to be established as a CPL through this co-location project.
13. The ACRMT is uniquely placed in the community to host the library, provide a managed group of library volunteers, deliver the agreed library service standards, and increase access to and the take up of library services.
14. As an early adopter of the concept of a Nottinghamshire Community Partnership Library, the ACRMT will provide a working model for other similar communities.
15. The formal CPL agreement will ensure the County Council's capital investment secures ongoing and sustainable library services for the length of the agreement. The agreement would ensure that ACRMT would be required to pay back the capital investment if it failed to provide the services as stated.
16. This will result in a reduction in revenue costs for Nottinghamshire County Council in terms of the Library, Property and Information Technology service costs.
17. The overall CPL programme is designed to be bespoke to each situation and thus this agreement provides a working model but sets no precedent in the level of capital contribution required in each situation.
18. A revised capital programme for the modernisation of libraries provides a small investment fund to enable CPLs to be established.

### **Other Options Considered**

19. In 2009 five options were considered, including alternative locations/buildings, provision of a substitute mobile library and closure of the library.
20. These options were evaluated following an appraisal of the suitability of locations, cost, potential for increasing levels of use, sustainability and access to other community services.

## **Financial Implications**

21. The capital investment is included in the Council's capital programme.
22. The recommendation would save £20,000 in capital costs against the previously agreed course of action, helping to reduce the authority's capital programme costs going forwards.
23. Once in place, the new library will save revenue costs of an estimated £10,500 against existing arrangements, which will contribute towards the £1m savings required of the Library Service, as set out in Outline Business Case B13.

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

24. The proposal to alter the location of the library and compensate by building an additional office space rather than library will facilitate a more sustainable library service at a lower capital cost.
25. This development allows a working model of the new CPL approach to be operational in 2014.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

26. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

27. This scheme enables ongoing provision of a static library service in the Annesley Woodhouse area and improves physical access, the library environment and will be accessible more hours than currently provided. The service agreement will require the community centre to adhere to the County Council Library service customer and service standards, including universal free access and stock policy.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the development of a Community Partnership Library in Annesley Woodhouse be approved.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director Youth, Families and Culture**

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

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**Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/03/14)**

28. Culture Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

**Financial Comments (KLA 12/03/14)**

29. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraphs 21 – 23 above.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

Outline Business Case B13.

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.

**Electoral Division(s) Affected**

Kirkby in Ashfield South Cllr Rachel Madden

C0392