

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

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

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

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

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Context**

2. The business case for the Libraries, Archives and Information Service approved by Full Council on 27 February 2014 identified the development of community partnership libraries (CPL) as a contribution to the £1m savings identified in the period to April 2017.
3. CPLs are a form of community managed libraries delivered through partnership with local bodies and groups to enable access to library services in a sustainable way.
4. A CPL is a bespoke arrangement based on the right solution for each community. There is a balanced approach between reducing costs and ensuring access to a quality assured and accessible library service is maintained.
5. Developing a CPL will consider accommodation, volunteering, access to library systems, customer demand and appropriate minimum service standards
6. The County Library service will offer set up support and an ongoing package of support to the CPL.
7. Following approval of the business case there have been a number of local groups which have proactively approached the County Council to investigate the development of CPLs. These include:
  - Annesley Woodhouse – a partnership with Ashfield Community Radio and Media Training
  - Collingham – a partnership with Collingham Parish Council
  - Misterton – a partnership with Misterton Parish Council
  - Sutton on Trent – a partnership with Sutton on Trent Parish Council Library Action Group.

8. Discussions are also active in the following communities to establish the community managed library access points: Besthorpe, Bircotes, Coddington, Gedling, Harby, South Scarle, Thorney, Tuxford and Winthorpe.
9. Following the implementation of the Library Service staffing review in April 2014, new locality managers are now in place. Over the next four months approaches will be made to additional potential community partners to develop CPLs further.
10. A formal agreement between the County Council and a partner has been established and will be used with Annesley Woodhouse in the first instance.
11. A new Library Management System module to allow partners access to appropriate system functionality to run a CPL within the County Library systems is currently being test by IT services.
12. All CPLs will only be developed if they reduce revenue costs to the Library service. In some cases CPLs will result in a reduction in revenue costs for other County Council budgets in terms of the Property and Information Technology service costs.
13. The CPL programme is designed to be bespoke to each situation and community.
14. A revised capital programme for the modernisation of libraries provides a small investment fund to enable CPLs to be established.

### **Other Options Considered**

15. Library closure or mobile library replacement for smaller libraries.

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

16. The development of CPLs will facilitate a more sustainable library service at a lower revenue costs.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. 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.

### **Financial Implications**

18. The successful development of CPLs will contribute towards the £1m savings required as set out in Outline Business Case B13.
19. The capital investment is included in the Council's capital programme.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty Implications**

20. 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. The service agreement will require the partner to adhere to the County Council Library Service customer and service standards, including universal free access and stock policy.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That progress on the development of Community Partnership Libraries be noted.

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (KLA 19/05/14)**

22. The financial implications of the report are set out in paragraphs 18 and 19 above.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Libraries and Archives Business Case B13 – report to Full Council on 27 February 2014  
A Strategy for Nottinghamshire's Libraries – report to Full Council on 15 December 2011

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**

All.

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