

**Report to Culture Committee** 

24 January 2017

Agenda Item: 11

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

# SUTTON-ON-TRENT, EDGEWOOD AND JACKSDALE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP LIBRARIES – PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT

# **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Committee approval for the development of Sutton-on-Trent Library, Edgewood Library and Jacksdale Library as community partnership libraries, subject to completion of the necessary service level agreements and documenting the approved lease arrangements.

# Information and Advice

- 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 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.

# Sutton-on-Trent Library

- 5. Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council has maintained a Library Support Group, consisting of two Parish Councillors and an interested village resident since 2011 this group has regularly liaised with the Library service to support and promote the library. In addition, there has been interest in progressing the idea of a CPL in the village for some time and discussions have taken place between the Library Support Group, representing and reporting back to the Parish Council, and the Library service.
- 6. As a result of these discussions Inspire has agreed to maintain all current expenses associated with the current library building and Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council will recruit and organise volunteers to cover day to day transactional operations within the library.
- 7. A service level agreement will be drawn up between Inspire and Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council to reflect both parties' responsibilities and any requirements of the landlord (including any necessary changes to the lease) in documenting this arrangement will need

to be approved by and agreed between the landlord, the Council, Inspire and the Parish Council.

8. Volunteer recruitment is well underway following an open meeting, organised by the Library Support Group in September 2016. Over 30 people attended the meeting and as a result 34 members of the community have now agreed to become library volunteers. This is an unprecedented number of volunteers for a CPL and is a testament to the support the village has always given to the library. Training, delivered by Inspire, started in November 2016 and will continue as needed until March 2017. In addition, and in order to simplify day to day transactions for both volunteers and members of the public, a small self-service machine will be installed prior to March 2017.

# **Edgewood Library**

- 9. Edgewood Library is situated within the Edgewood Primary School and Leisure Centre building. The library is one of 28 Level 3 libraries with the majority of footfall and loans coming from the school children and their parents/carers.
- 10. The Library service has been in ongoing discussions with the school to increase and improve access to library facilities by the school. As a result of these discussions, Inspire has agreed to install a new door providing direct access between the library and school. In return, Edgewood Primary school has agreed to make the library available to the general public through a combination of self-access and the recruitment of volunteers.
- 11. To reflect the new relationship with the school the library will be re-named Edgewood Children's and Community Library.
- 12. A service level agreement will be drawn up between Inspire and Edgewood Primary School to reflect both parties' responsibilities and any necessary changes to the lease will also be arranged with the landlord.
- 13. The school is seeking to recruit volunteers in addition to developing teaching assistant and pupil roles to ensure the library is properly maintained. In addition, and in order to simplify day to day transactions for school staff, pupils, volunteers and members of the public, a small self-service machine has recently been installed.

# Jacksdale Library

- 14. Jacksdale Library is one of 28 Level 3 libraries in Nottinghamshire. In 2015/16, visits were 3,783 with 7,696 books and other items being issued.
- 15. The Library service has been in ongoing discussions with Selston Parish Council since 2014 over the relocation of the library into the Parish Council owned Jacksdale Community Centre. More recently, the Library service has been approached by the Dale Club to move into premises located adjacent to Jacksdale Primary School.
- 16. Following an evaluation of the two options, the preferred option is the Dale Club which will provide a larger space for the library, minimal requirement for investment in building improvement work and lower running costs than the current library building. The Dale Club will also recruit and organise volunteers to cover day to day transactional operations within the library.

17. A service level agreement will be drawn up between Inspire and the Dale Club to reflect both parties' responsibilities and any necessary changes to the lease.

# **Other Options Considered**

- 18. A number of alternative locations for a library in Sutton-on-Trent were considered in conjunction with the Support Group and the Parish Council. It was concluded that currently the present location is most suited to delivery of the service.
- 19. No viable alternative locations for a library in Edgewood are currently available and it was concluded that the present location is most suited to delivery of the service.
- 20. After evaluating other options for Jacksdale Library it was concluded that the Dale Club is most suited to delivery of the service.

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

- 21. The proposed partnership in Sutton-on-Trent builds on the work undertaken by the Support Group and has been developed in liaison with and support of the local community. It is a sustainable model for delivery of accessible library services in Sutton-on-Trent.
- 22. The proposed partnership in Edgewood builds on positive dialogue with the school headteacher, staff and governors. It is a sustainable model for delivery of accessible library services in Edgewood.
- 23. The proposed partnership in Jacksdale builds on positive dialogue with the Dale Club. It is a sustainable model for delivery of accessible library services in Jacksdale.

# **Statutory and Policy Implications**

24. 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**

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

# RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- 1) the development of Sutton-on-Trent Library as a Community Partnership Library be approved subject to completion of the necessary service level agreement and documenting the approved lease arrangements.
- 2) the development of Edgewood Library as a Community Partnership Library be approved subject to completion of the necessary service level agreement and documenting the approved lease arrangements.
- 3) the development of Jacksdale Library as a Community Partnership Library be approved subject to completion of the necessary service level agreement and documenting the approved lease arrangements.

# Derek Higton Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture

# For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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# Constitutional Comments (SLB 15/11/16)

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

# Financial Comments (TMR 8/12/16)

28. The financial implications are set out in the 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.

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, 22 September 2015 and 6 September 2016

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

Hucknall	Cllr Alice Grice
	Cllr John Wilkinson
	Cllr John Wilmott
Selston	Cllr David Martin
Southwell and Caunton	Cllr Bruce Laughton

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