

**REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY 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 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 a contribution to the £1M savings identified.
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. Following the approval of the business case there has been a number of local groups who have proactively approached the County Council to investigate the development of CPLs.
5. An update on progress was provided to Culture Committee at its meeting 3 June 2014.
6. The 'Redefining Your Council' options for change process 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.
7. The developing trend is that, in consultation with communities, there is no 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 development of CPLs. In some circumstances ongoing building provision and staffing input is required.

8. Communities are 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.
9. Since the update provided in June 2014 the following progress has been made:
  - a) **Annesley Woodhouse** – a partnership with the Acacia Community Association has been established. Due to financial issues the required building work had to be suspended. Recently these issues have been resolved and the project is now progressing again. The project is dependent on a number of partners.
  - b) **Collingham** – a partnership with Collingham Parish Council to co-locate the library within a new Parish Hub has been agreed. The County's first CPL is scheduled to open on 26 September 2015. An increased level of volunteering will be developed with the community in the new hub.
  - c) **Misterton** – 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 is due to be completed by June 2016.
  - d) **Sutton-on-Trent** – a volunteer based partnership with Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council and Library Action Group. Currently agreeing a contract - awaiting on Property and Legal services, aiming to go live in January 2016.
  - e) **Tuxford** – a project to create a CPL within the primary school saving building costs and an element of staffing costs. Due to open in November 2015 following the autumn half term.
  - f) **Jacksdale** – proposed co-location and volunteering partnership with Selston Parish Council into the Jacksdale community hall. Building modifications are required and terms are still to be agreed. Opening potentially by early 2016 if agreement is secured with the Parish Council and data line transfer scheduled.
  - g) **Edgewood** – ongoing discussions with the school (in which the library is based). Likely partnership with school based volunteering. Some building and access issues still to be costed and agreed.
10. Discussions have also taken place in relation to the following libraries: Bircotes, Gedling, Gotham, Ladybrook, Lowdham and Sutton Bonnington
11. A first Library Access Point (LAP) was opened in South Scarle on 10 January 2015, with ongoing discussions with a potential partner in Coddington and the Bridge Community Centre.
12. Project management and capacity to develop CPLs has been prioritised within the library service whilst at the same time reducing overall management and professional posts.

13. An action log of all discussions and approaches in relation to CPLs has been maintained and is available to key staff.
14. A dedicated post was created in the staffing review implemented in May 2015 which provides a single focus of the development and implementation of CPLs.
15. The Council's community engagement team has also been involved where appropriate to support the capacity within communities to participate in and develop a CPL that will be sustainable in the context of their community.

### **Other Options Considered**

16. The report is for noting only.

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

17. The report is for noting only.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

18. 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**

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

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

21. 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 the update on the development of Community Partnership Libraries across Nottinghamshire be noted.

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**Constitutional Comments**

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

**Financial Comments (SS 25/08/15)**

23. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraph 19 above.

**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 – report to Culture Committee on 3 June 2014

**Electoral Division Affected**

All.

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