



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

9 OCTOBER 2017

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

SCRUTINY REVIEW: LIBRARY PROVISION ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Report of the Director (Corporate Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members on the provision of library services across the borough following Leicestershire County Council's review of libraries in 2014/15.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The report be noted.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 In 2014 Leicestershire County Council commenced a review of the library service across the county with a consultation on the future provision. Between December 2014 and June 2015, expressions of interest were invited from community groups to run community libraries.
- 3.2 As a result of the review, Leicestershire County Council maintained 16 funded libraries across Leicestershire, including three in Hinckley & Bosworth. In most cases, the responsibility for the premises as well as the services has been transferred.
- 3.3 The following arrangements are in place for the management of libraries in Hinckley & Bosworth:

Barwell: closed
Burbage: community
Desford: LCC
Earl Shilton: LCC
Groby: community

Hinckley: LCC
Market Bosworth: community
Markfield: community
Newbold Verdon: community
Ratby: community

3.4 Barwell library

Barwell library closed on 4 June 2016 after a community group had to pull out of proposals to run the library due to being unable to find ways of making it financially viable. Leicestershire County Council continues to be open to expressions of interest from community groups to re-open the library.

3.5 Burbage Community Library

Burbage library is managed and staffed by a group of volunteers who were selected after submitting a business plan to Leicestershire County Council. A grant was secured to replace the single glazed windows and refurbish the toilet to make it accessible and to include baby changing facilities. The library hosts several groups and holds fund raising events to support continuation of the library service.

Burbage library is open Monday and Tuesday 14:00 – 17:00, Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 and 16:00 – 19:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 13:00.

3.6 Desford Library

Leicestershire County Council continues to run Desford library at present but is in negotiations with a community group to take over the management. Should this not be realised, consideration may need to be given to closing the library and offering a mobile service.

The library hosts monthly coffee mornings, a knit and stitch group and a monthly parish council surgery. Its opening hours are Monday 14:00 – 19:00, Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00, Thursday 10:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 19:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 13:00.

3.7 Earl Shilton library

Earl Shilton library continues to be run by Leicestershire County Council. It is a very busy and well-used library with several groups and services.

The library's opening times are Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10:00 – 17:00, Thursday 13:00 – 18:00, Saturday 10:00 – 15:00.

3.8 Groby Community Library

Since April 2016, Groby library has been run by Groby Community Library Group, which has been awarded charitable status and consists of around 26 volunteers. It runs several groups and community events.

The library's opening hours are Monday to Wednesday 14:00 – 17:00, Thursday and Saturday 10:00 – 13:00 and Friday 14:00 – 19:00.

3.9 Hinckley library

Hinckley library continues to be managed by Leicestershire County Council. It hosts several groups and community events. Its opening hours are Monday to Wednesday and Friday 10:00 – 18:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 16:00. Opening hours were reduced in 2015 as part of the programme of savings.

3.10 Market Bosworth Community Library

The management of the library was transferred to Market Bosworth Community Library, a group of volunteers, in August 2016. Since the transfer, the majority of services previously provided have continued and a tourist information centre has been added. The library sells books, CDs and DVDs that have been donated in order to raise funds for the running and further development of the library. They also offer room hire which supports the running of the services.

The opening hours are Monday and Tuesday 14:00 – 17:00, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 – 12:00, Thursday 14:00 – 19:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 13:00.

3.11 Markfield Community Library

Markfield library is run by over 50 volunteers and is funded by donations, grants and fundraising activities. Management of the library transferred to Markfield Community Library, a registered charity, in September 2015. The library invites several groups and clubs to use its facilities and holds community events.

The opening hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 09:00 – 10:00, 13:00 – 15:00 and 18:00 – 19:00, Wednesday 09:00 – 10:00 and Friday 09:00 – 10:00 and 13:00 – 15:00.

3.12 Newbold Verdon Library

“Our Library @ Newbold Verdon” was set up in 2015 and is a registered charity working to become self-funding over time and to not only retain but extend the range of services provided. The library was transferred to the group in January 2016. The library hosts regular groups and community and social events.

The opening hours are Monday and Wednesday 14:00 – 18:00, Tuesday 10:00 – 12:00, Friday 10:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 17:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 13:00.

3.13 Ratby Community Library

Ratby Library & Community Group is a registered charity which took over management of the library in February 2016. The library hosts groups, clubs and exhibitions and plans to continue and improve on services and facilities.

The opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00 – 16:30, Wednesday 10:00 – 18:00 and Saturday 10:00 – 13:00.

3.14 Grant funding is currently available from the county council for the community libraries but will gradually be phased out, after which time they must be self-funding.

3.15 Those areas that don't have a library will be served by a weekly mobile library service.

3.16 SMART libraries

Leicestershire County Council has undertaken a SMART library pilot at Syston library and, following success of the pilot, it has agreed to implement this across several other libraries in Leicestershire, including Earl Shilton and Hinckley libraries. SMART library technology will include self-service kiosks for borrowing, returning and renewing items and paying charges. The introduction of SMART technology is

expected to realise savings of around £230,000 per annum whilst improving access to libraries.

4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

4.1 The report will be taken in public session.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [IB]

5.1 None.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [AR]

6.1 None.

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report supports the following corporate visions:

People: Support an effective and viable voluntary and community sector
Give children and young people the best start in life and offer them the opportunity to thrive in their communities
Places: Support and celebrate our cultural and heritage facilities and events for the benefit of residents and businesses alike
Prosperity: Support our rural communities.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 Not applicable.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

9.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

9.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
None		

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report gives consideration to all communities, groups and parishes in reviewing provision across the borough.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

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Executive Member: