

Get **more** out of Libraries

Review of Library Opening Hours Presentation to Select Committee

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Community

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Background

- Every County Council Service has to reduce its budget by 8% in 2012/13. This is in addition to the 8% budget reduction made for 2011/12
- This means cutting the Library budget by an additional £1.2m
- We already have achieved most of this from the Mobile review, and reducing HQ and Management costs and the Book Fund
- Still have a gap of £450,000 to find
- We believe the only way we can now do this is to reduce library opening hours in a consistent way across Hampshire



Proposed Changes

- 50 Libraries and 3 Discovery Centres
- Total opening hours = 1,939 hours a week
- Proposal - to reduce the total number of hours by 145.5 hours a week, a reduction of 7.5%
- One key library in each district council area in Hampshire = 11 key libraries
- Our goal is for the 11 key libraries to be open for at least 50 hours a week, 6 days a week
- All our other libraries will be closed at least a day a week



Proposed Changes cont.

- The 11 key libraries are:
 - Basingstoke, Gosport and Winchester Discovery Centres
 - Andover, Chandler's Ford, Fareham, Farnborough, Fleet, Lymington, Petersfield and Waterlooville libraries



Library Designations

- We are keeping the designations of large, medium, small and neighbourhood libraries, based on the number of issues pa
- We are proposing that each designation of library is open for a minimum number of hours so:
 - large libraries will be open 40+ hours a week
 - medium libraries will be open 35+ hours a week
 - small libraries will be open 20+ hours a week
 - neighbourhood libraries should also be open 20 hours a week



16 Neighbourhood Libraries

- We are not proposing many changes to the opening hours of our smallest libraries.
- We are proposing to seek help from local volunteers to work alongside staff to increase opening hours or take over the running of their local neighbourhood library.
- There is no time-frame on these types of discussions; we see arrangements evolving over time.



Assessment of Neighbourhood Libraries

- The criteria included:
 - Decline in issues over the last 5 years (*any decline over 30% was judged to be too high*)
 - % of local people using the library (*less than 10% was judged to be too low*)
 - Proximity of the library to nearby library/libraries
 - Whether the library was in an area of multiple deprivation or not
 - The public transport links.



Stanmore and North Baddesley Libraries

- Stanmore and North Baddesley do not meet the criteria.
- Keen to enter into discussions with local groups or organisations who might be interested in taking over full responsibility for running Stanmore or North Baddesley, with support from the Library Service.
- If we cannot transfer the running of Stanmore and North Baddesley libraries to a local group then they are likely to close in September 2012.



Public Consultation & Timescales

- Runs from 28 September for 90 days - 28 December
- Customers are being asked to complete forms and return them to the staff at the library or post them, Freepost.
- The public can also send in their comments via e-mail via the Library web site www.hants.gov.uk/library
- The results of the consultation will be analysed and reported to Cllr Chapman, Executive Member for Culture and Recreation, on 20 January 2012.
- The new opening hours will start on 1 April 2012.



Total Savings

- In total we are proposing reductions totalling approximately £492,000.
- Whilst this appears to be more than we need to make the savings required for 2012/13, we need to build in a bit extra as we will not get a full year's the savings in 2012/13. It also gives us scope to make some changes as a result of the consultation.



Consultation so far

- Nearly 2,000 comments received from our customers, approx. 50% via email.
- On the whole supportive of the need for change, lots of ideas for different opening hours.
- Meetings arranged with Totton, Hedge End and Alton Town Councils and West End Parish Council.
- Meetings also arranged in North Baddesley and Stanmore.
- Revised hours in 3 libraries – new consultation to start next week on new proposals