

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside
Date:	25 September 2013
Title:	Leasing Space in Hampshire Libraries
Reference:	5115
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. The decision:

- a) That the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside confirms his support for implementation of the initiative to make surplus space available in Hampshire's libraries for community and commercial use. The final decision will be made by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources on 1 November 2013.

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. Many of the reference books in public libraries have now become subscription sites available on the internet and are no longer published in book format. In addition to this, by the end of August 2013 all Hampshire's libraries will be offering free Wi-Fi for customers with their own laptops too, as well as free public access to the internet via over 400 terminals in libraries. As a consequence of this, there has been a reduction in the number of physical books in libraries and therefore there is space that can be made available in some libraries which the County Council owns or occupies on long leases.
- 2.2. The County Council's 'Transformation to 2015' programme promotes better use of the Council's land and buildings in order to achieve efficiencies, cost savings, operational benefits and generate additional income. It is considered that surplus space within libraries could be put to more productive use by marketing it for occupation by community and commercial organisations.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Not making surplus space available in Hampshire's libraries for community and commercial use.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

25 September 2013

**Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and
Countryside
Councillor Keith Chapman**