

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee:	Culture and Communities Select Committee
Date:	19 November 2015
Title:	Consultation on Library Service Transformation – Draft Strategy to 2020
Reference:	7076
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the various ways Hampshire residents are being consulted on the Library Service's Draft Strategy to 2020. A further report is due to come to the Select Committee in March 2016, setting out the results of the consultation.

2. Consultation

- 2.1. On 2 November 2015 the Library Service started a major consultation on the new Draft Strategy to 2020 which is available on:
www3.hants.gov.uk/library.
- 2.2. There are three main audiences proposed within the public consultation:
- Library Service workforce – including Library staff, Trade Unions and Volunteers
 - Library Service customers – including active Library Members and non-users
 - Stakeholders – including County Councillors, District, Borough, Town and Parish Councils, adjacent local authorities, Members of Parliament and local community partners.
- 2.3. For Library staff there has already been a briefing of Library Managers, and, during November, there will be a series of workshops in eight libraries to discuss the draft Strategy with front line staff. Library customers are being consulted via an on-line questionnaire which has been emailed to every Library member who has provided an email address, 160,000 in total. Printed copies of the questionnaire are also available in every library for customers who do not wish to complete the questionnaire online and copies of the questionnaire will be given to every Mobile Library customer.

- 2.4. Stakeholders will be approached individually and asked to complete the questionnaire on behalf of their organisation. A copy of the consultation questionnaire is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.5. In addition the Library Service has commissioned an independent research company to undertake telephone surveys with about 600 Hampshire residents, selected to reflect the make up of the population of Hampshire. This will be undertaken well before Christmas.

3. Consultation Timetable

- 3.1. The consultation started on 2 November 2015 and runs until 16 January 2016 (11 weeks) to give people the opportunity to make representations on the proposals and to offer alternatives for consideration. The feedback from the consultation will be collated and, where appropriate, amendments will be made to the existing proposals. As of 9 November, over 4,500 completed questionnaires had been submitted for analysis.
- 3.2. The results of the consultation and an amended version of the Strategy to 2020 are due to be presented to this Select Committee at its meeting in March 2016, prior to going to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside for a decision in April 2016. The implementation of the changes to the Library Service will follow afterwards.

4. Recommendation

That the Culture and Communities Select Committee:

- i) Notes the plans for consulting on the Library Service Transformation – Draft Strategy to 2020
- ii) Asks for a report on the consultation at its March 2016 meeting.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Maximising well-being:	yes
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

Equalities Impact Assessments have been drafted for the potential changes to the Mobile Library Service and the impact of reducing the number of static libraries. These will be reviewed and updated as a result of the consultation and used to inform the final decision on the Strategy by the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

There is no impact on crime and disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? No impact.
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? No impact.