

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Nicola Horsey, Assistant Director Community and Regulatory Services
Date:	19 December 2016
Title:	Temporary Closure of Fareham Library for a refurbishment.
Reference:	8027

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. To close Fareham Library from Monday 6th February 2017 until Monday 17th April inclusive, re-opening on or around Tuesday 18th April, to allow refurbishment of the Library. Included in the refurbishment will be a new Digilab provision and installation of a new Library café although the launch dates of both facilities may take place beyond the opening date of the newly refurbished Library. This supports the Library Service Strategy: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/libraries/LibraryServiceTransformationStrategyto2020ApprovedVersion.pdf>

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. To meet the commitment made within the Library Strategy to 2020 to reinvest the Book Fund to achieve an improved aesthetic of the library and make it a more modern, welcoming and relevant public space.
- 2.2. To create a Digilab, equipped with I.T and coding tools which will encourage and support the public – the audience will primarily be teenagers and young adults although there may also be interest from business start ups. The facility will provide an opportunity for customers to develop new skills which will make them more digitally aware and confident in using technology to 'make and create' the audience will primarily be teenagers and young adults although there may also be interest from business start ups. The facility will provide an opportunity for customers to develop new skills which will make them more digitally aware and confident in using technology to 'make and create'
- 2.3. To create two new community spaces which can be used by County Council colleagues and partners for small meetings or consultations with the potential to generate new income for the service.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. To leave the library without improvement which would make it less appealing and relevant to customers and reflect poorly on the County Council.
- 3.2. Safe completion of works while remaining open to the public is not possible.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service:

- 5.1 None

6. Supporting information:

- Additional items may be borrowed in advance of the closure. No items on loan will be due back during this time and customers will be directed to other nearby libraries and to the e-books and e-resources via the library website.
- Functions such as renewals and reservations will still be available through self-service on the website and via HantsDirect
- Access will remain available to the Libraries digital resources for the duration of the closure.
- Consideration will be given to the continuation of any learning activities elsewhere if a business case can be made to support it.
- Consideration will be given to providing continued access to the School Library Service and Citizens' Advice if this can be achieved safely.

Approved by:

Date:

19 December 2016

Nicola Horsey
Assistant Director Community and Regulatory Services

(on behalf of the Director of Culture, Communities and
Business Services)