

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

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

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. To close Fleet Library from Monday 30th January until Monday 17th April inclusive, re-opening on or around Tuesday 18th April, to allow a full refurbishment of the ground floor and partial works to the first floor of the Library. Included in the refurbishment will be a new Digilab provision, installation of self-service technology and the creation of an independent entrance to the Library. This supports the Library Service Strategy: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/libraries/LibraryServiceTransformationStrategyto2020ApprovedVersion.pdf>

2. Reason(s) for the decision:

- 2.1. To demonstrate the commitment made in the Library Strategy to 2020 to invest money from the Book Fund reduction to improve the aesthetic of the library and make it a more modern, welcoming and relevant public space
- 2.2. To install self-service technology in line with the Library Service Strategy to 2020, which will achieve efficiencies, allow customer independence, support corporate channel shift and reduce the level of staffing required within this Library.
- 2.3. 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'
- 2.4. To install an accessible public toilet on the ground floor
- 2.5. To install a public entrance which reduces dependency on the Harlington Centre and supports greater out of hours use of the Library.

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 HCC. This situation would be exacerbated should the Harlington Centre which is attached to the Library achieve its planned significant up-grade.
- 3.2. A full refurbishment of the first floor is not viable at this time as discussions continue to be progressed with Fleet Town Council about the future of the Harlington Centre and opportunity for potential co-location (temporary or permanent) on the first floor of the Library.
- 3.3. Safe completion of works while remaining open to the public is not possible.
- 3.4. Omitting the new entrance and accessible toilet from the plans would mean that dependencies on the Harlington centre would be sustained and would not be in line with the Vision and Strategy.

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 continuance of any learning activities elsewhere if a business case can be made to support it.

Approved by:

Date:

Nicola Horsey
Assistant Director Community and Regulatory Services
(on behalf of the Director of Culture, Communities and
Business Services)

19 December 2016