

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Report

<b>Committee:</b>	Children and Young People's Select Committee
<b>Date:</b>	22 September 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Scope and Breadth of Hampshire's Library Offer
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

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### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to support members in understanding the scope and breadth and reach of the library offer, and the impact this has on library service users.

### Recommendation

2. Members are asked to note the contents of this report, and the future strategic direction of the Hampshire Library Service, and to consider any local connections that would be beneficial to explore to further meet the needs of local residents.

### Executive Summary

3. This report comprises four parts:
  - The report explores what makes a library a library in 2023, it sets out the statutory requirement of a library service, the Libraries Connected National Offer and how Hampshire Library Service provides a comprehensive and efficient service whilst delivering a vision.
  - We provide information on our work delivered through this vision, by focussing on some of our core campaigns and offers to provide richer detail on the breadth, reach and impact of the current offer.
  - The quantitative and qualitative impact of libraries.
  - We take a forward look at how we can continue to develop our services and partnerships, and how we are reviewing our community hub offer to align and merge with the new community hub concept under development in Children's Services to ensure libraries retain a universal service that meets the needs of communities.

## What makes a library a library in 2023

4. A recent report from the Minister responsible for libraries, Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, states: Library services continue to rise to the challenges which have confronted every type of organisation. Our libraries have been a lifeline for many people while living costs have been rising, with many libraries becoming 'warm banks'. In addition to their core activity – encouraging reading and making a wide range of loan material available – they continue to provide a range of other services: free access to WiFi and public PCs, study spaces, and providing welcoming and trusted places where people can take part in group activities or come together for a variety of purposes. They are an important part of the wider civic infrastructure too, often providing access to other government or civil society functions.
5. In Hampshire, engagement with communities by the Library Service takes place through our core offer of events, activities, and partnerships. Below we provide details on the statute, the current national Universal Library Offers and the current vision that Hampshire Library Service works to, to meet statutory requirements and community need.
6. The statute: main requirements and general duties of the 1964 Act
  - A 'comprehensive and efficient' Library Service for all persons, taking account of local community needs (including future need) and available resources.
  - Facilities available for the borrowing of, or reference to, books and other materials sufficient in number, range and quality to meet general, and any special requirements, of both adults and children.
  - The keeping of adequate book stocks and a requirement to lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work, or study in the area.
  - Encouraging both adults and children to make full use of the library service and providing advice and support on how to make use and access services, information, and resources.
7. In 2014, central and local government established a Libraries Taskforce to provide leadership and implement recommendations to reinvigorate libraries. [Libraries Deliver 2016 to 2021](#) provided the ambition for libraries for this period and articulated the vision that libraries are vital community hubs, which bring people together and give them access to services and support to help them live better.
8. Following a recent independent review chaired by Baroness Sanderson of Welton, it is anticipated that a new public library strategy will be launched in 2024.
9. Libraries Connected is commissioned to work as an Investment Principles Support Organisation (IPSO) for libraries. It represents public libraries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

10. Libraries Connected Universal Library Offers were reviewed in 2019 and provided an integrated approach to library services. They are designed to connect communities, improve wellbeing, and promote equality through learning, literacy, and cultural activity nationally.



11. Hampshire County Council continues to meet statutory responsibilities and provides a comprehensive and efficient service which provides:
- A network of 40 physical library locations, reasonably accessible to all residents across towns and villages throughout Hampshire.
  - A comprehensive lending offer and a universal range of other events, activities, and services to encourage use and support and include our communities.
  - A tiered system of library spaces, based on community need with each District retaining a top tier library, providing a total of 1250 staffed opening hours across a 6-day week.
  - A popular digital lending offer with a growing audience.
  - A home library service, delivering books and support, through a volunteer workforce, to individuals and/or carers who are homebound.
  - A targeted Learning in Libraries offer focussing on employability skills, digital support and health and wellbeing.
  - Free access to public IT and Wi-Fi.
  - A high performing subscription-based School Library Service supporting children's literacy and helping develop a lifelong love of reading for pleasure in schools and beyond.

12. Hampshire Library Service meets community needs and aligns with national Universal Library Offers, by providing a modern, relevant and sustainable library service that is valued by communities and which plays an important role in delivering Hampshire County Council's strategic goals through achieving three core priorities;
- Promoting reading
  - Supporting healthy, creative communities
  - Investing in digital services.

## Hampshire Libraries: Our Vision

**Priority one:**

### Promoting reading

- Providing a service for everyone** - championing reading for pleasure.
- Developing children's literacy, particularly within the Early Years (ages 0-5)** - giving children the best start in life.
- Investing in Hampshire's Digital Library** - reflecting increasing use of electronic books and offering greater choice to readers.

**Priority two:**

### Supporting healthy, creative communities

- Establishing council - run libraries as 'community hubs'** - bringing individuals, communities and services together, thereby making better use of available public funds and improving outcomes for people.
- Taking the Library Service into communities** - engaging with residents in the most deprived areas, where use of library services is lowest, and partnering with voluntary and community sector organisations.
- Delivering a programme of learning and activities that meet the needs of library users** - promoting literacy, health, wellbeing and digital skills.

**Priority three:**

### Investing in digital services

- Providing access to technology, prioritising those at risk of digital exclusion** - working with partners to help people access information, opportunities and services online.

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13. **Promoting reading** – we champion reading for pleasure for all ages and have a focus on early years, ages 0-5, to help give Hampshire's children the best start in life. Hampshire Library Service has invested in our digital library to reflect and support the increasing use of electronic and audio books, as well as access to free newspapers and magazines.
14. **Supporting healthy, creative communities** – we strive to bring the local community and services together to improve equal access and provide better value for everyone. We are engaging with residents and both voluntary and community sector organisations in areas where participation has been lowest to improve engagement. Libraries provide a comprehensive programme of events, activities and learning opportunities that promote literacy, support expansion of digital skills and improve general health and wellbeing and create greater resilience in the community.

15. **Investing in digital** – ensuring that those that need it have the skills and opportunities to access information and services online, with a particular focus on those who are at risk of digital exclusion. This is achieved by providing free access to the online world via the Go Online (public access) terminals, offering customers the ability to print documents in branch (for a small charge) and offering digital learning activities via the Learning in Libraries programme and with other partners. Current and future plans include the enhancement and upgrading of the public printing solution, and a refreshed Go Online service. Other ongoing enhancements include continued investment in the digital library via the Borrow Box platform and the ability for customers to self-serve via the Spydus Mobile app.

### **Core services and campaigns**

16. To meet local needs, Hampshire's libraries provide a varied range of services, campaigns, activities, events, and resources to a diverse range of members and library visitors. These services provide a key role in building better resilience into communities.
17. Events and activities that engage and signpost communities, whilst facilitated and often delivered directly by library teams, may also be delivered or assisted by volunteers or a wide range of community, internal and external partners.

### *Children and young people's events and activities*

18. The Library Service vision made a commitment to support children's literacy in the early years with the longer-term aim of narrowing the educational gap. Before literacy develops more broadly, children need to develop their language. Total attendance at children focussed activities and events during 2022/23 was 225,003.
19. **Rhymetime** supports parental engagement in their child's language and social development as well as building attachment. As well as attracting almost 100,000 visits to Hampshire libraries during 2022/23 these sessions help babies and toddlers develop communication and listening skills through singing songs and rhymes.
20. **Storytime** is a fun and engaging way to introduce children to books and support a lifelong love for reading. Books are selected with rhyme and repetition in mind to support enjoyment, speech, language and communication.
21. **Baby Play** is a weekly group for parents/carers with babies aged 0-12 months. Sessions include free play with soft, sensory toys and books, rhyming and the occasional visitor from local organisations. Some partners signpost parents to these sessions who are feeling socially isolated or in low mood.

22. **Over and Over** is a six-week programme led by library staff, in partnership with childminders, nurseries and pre-schools, to support under-fives. The programme is called 'Over and Over' as the concept of re-reading a book supports children's early language development. It is currently being delivered in areas of deprivation and will be rolled out in other areas of need. The programme shows positive progress in children's communication, language and confidence.
23. **Rhyme & Story of the month** has been introduced to improve the quality of our early years events and activities to support language development and the home learning environment. It encourages continuation at home as it is suggested that if children know eight nursery rhymes aged four, they are usually among the best readers at eight. A digital campaign with the support of health workers has resulted in reaching families who may not have visited the library previously.
24. **Chatterbooks** is a reading group for children aged 4-12 which focuses on reading and building a lifelong reading habit through sharing stories and participation in engaging activities and crafts built around books.
25. **Gaming groups** (including board games/construction club/stay & play sessions) are often held on Saturdays and in school holidays allowing families to spend time together and strengthen relationships. These encourage critical thinking and problem solving, and aid language development. They can provide a sense of accomplishment and achievement, whilst reducing isolation, anxiety, and stress.
26. **Code Club** is a club for children to practice, share and develop their coding and digital skills. Code Club is a global community supporting volunteers and organisations with free resources and vetting to successfully run and deliver these clubs.
27. **Learning & health partners** - Hampshire Libraries enables spaces for partners to meet with the public in a safe inclusive space; reducing any stigma that may come with attending a session. Holding these in libraries helps hard to reach communities, improves engagement and reduces fear.
28. **School Class, uniformed groups (e.g. Brownies) and pre-school visits** provide important engagement sessions to connect with children who may or may not have used the library before, to showcase all the services, resources and opportunities libraries provide.

### *Summer Reading Challenge*

29. The Summer Reading Challenge is a challenge to read six books over the summer holidays to support children to sustain their literacy levels over the 6-week break, where they can often dip between school years. With a keen focus on reading for pleasure, it can have a very positive impact on children's life opportunities.

30. Children get stickers for each book they read and a medal and certificate for completing the whole challenge.
31. Participants continue to grow, post pandemic, and working with funding from, and in partnership with, the Holiday Activity Fund has enabled libraries to provide additional support via a Books and Brunch scheme and work with providers to bring reading and the library offer to some harder to reach families.
32. In 2022 Hampshire Libraries had the highest participation rate of any South East authority, and at the time of writing, over 19,000 children had started the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge with over 65,000 books being read as part of the initiative. This is an increase of 12% on the numbers for the previous two years.

#### *Libraries of Sanctuary*

33. In 2022, Hampshire Libraries were awarded Library Service of Sanctuary in recognition of our work with refugee and asylum communities across all libraries. This has enabled greater access to funding, and with partners, the creation of Ukraine Connections. It facilitated Ukrainians coming together in a safe environment to be introduced to library services, meet for refreshments, create networks, ask questions, and be signposted.
34. Some groups continue, having evolved into Community Connections, which welcome all sanctuary seekers. We also run Conversation Cafes (led by volunteers) to support informal language learning beyond the ESOL classes on offer.
35. Similarly, activities and events for Hongkongers and BN(O) visa holders have been held to welcome them to the library service. Over 60 Hongkongers attended Hong Kong Welcome Days in three libraries in August. Chinese brush painting tasters, traditional food, and games were provided to help demonstrate activity range, and partners came to engage too. All attendees enrolled in library membership, which is an achievement in a community which is generally fearful of 'government' entities. These events, coupled with our welcoming safe spaces, have helped to break down barriers to this community. One attendee commented "*the event last Saturday went so well and completely spiced up my week. I could not stop myself from telling people how great my weekend went*".
36. Both Ukrainians and Hongkongers are now volunteering and working in our library team.

#### *Universal adult events and activities*

37. Hampshire Libraries host a range of events and activities which bring adults together to: knit, play board games or cards, listen to someone read or

provide a talk, practice another language, or participate in a reading group. With an overall attendance of 43,156 during 2022/23.

38. In 2022 libraries helped launch Public Health's Chat About campaign and continue to provide regular sessions facilitated by staff and volunteers who have received additional Mental Health & Suicide Awareness training. To date 5,134 participants have attended these events.
39. **Case Study 1:** *"Two elderly gentlemen attend ChatAbout who have both been recently bereaved, having lost their wives. They very much look forward to their Thursday session, as it helps them feel less isolated. Although they came independently, they have now built a friendship and see each other regularly. Both customers have health issues, and they find the sessions help them feel more relaxed and less anxious. For one it has been an important opportunity to practice his speech whilst recovering from a stroke."*
40. **Case Study 2:** *"A lady attending our 'Relaxation Station@ChatAbout' club every week, finds it is helping her mental health. She has suffered an abusive relationship, and other substantial traumas like losing a child. She relies on it to help her get through as she is having a tough time in shared accommodation."*

#### *Learning opportunities*

41. Hampshire 'Learning in Libraries' provides adult community learning in 28 libraries across the county and online via Zoom. The programme is funded through Hampshire Learns, with a focus on building healthy and resilient communities by tackling social isolation, connecting learners with the wider community, developing positive parenting skills and creating community cohesion. In the 2022-23 academic year, 'Learning in Libraries' delivered 457 courses, reaching 2,833 Hampshire residents.
42. **Case Study 3:** *Everyday English course: "... I'm writing because I would like to share a great news with you, I've got a job last week and I'm going to start it next week. I'm really happy I'm coming back to the job market. I would like to thank you for all the support that you've given me all this time. It was really important for me feeling more confident with the English language."*
43. **Case Study 4:** *A daughter attended Makaton course and was able to share her learnings with her father. He was then able to say 'I love you' to his daughter, the first time since his stroke a few years ago.*
44. **Case Study 5:** *"After attending a First Aid course – one attendee put their new skills to good use very quickly. Following a car accident, she was able to give CPR and save the life of the individual."*



## *Cost of Living*

45. In 2022/23 Hampshire libraries recognised many customers were having financial issues due to the cost-of-living crisis. A pro-active approach was taken to identify partners that could help source funding or resources to aid customers. We have supported over 21,580 people through:
- Warm and Welcome events – with a range of partners and information stands linked to fuel and food poverty. Food vouchers, warm bags and signposting to other resources including the promotion of libraries as warm and welcome spaces.
  - Establishing uniform and coat swaps, where there is a need.
  - Community pantries & fridges in Hythe, Ringwood and Hayling Island Libraries with more planned. Hythe has up to 100 people per day using these facilities. Ringwood Community fridge has saved over 60 tonnes of food waste to date. Hayling Island Library Pantry has 400 regular customers.
  - Period poverty stations providing free period products to customers, working in partnership with Bloody Good Period, with Fareham Library alone distributing 30 items per week.
  - Setting up Chat About sessions for those who were socially isolated.
  - Holiday and Food activities for whole families were delivered through the Christmas holidays. The programme reached 75 children/families participating in board games, crafts, goody bags with healthy snacks and drinks.
46. In 2023/24 we have continued to develop this work county-wide with Household Support funding via connect4communities, particularly focusing on those in areas of deprivation. The work includes:
- Further Warm and Welcome events linked to fuel and food poverty.
  - Providing after school clubs and Saturday fun family sessions with refreshments.
  - Basingstoke Discovery Centre continuing their popular Books and Brunch scheme.
  - Libraries with cafes offering food vouchers to those most in need in the winter months. Hayling Island Library will also be starting a lunch drop-in aimed at older customers offering a mug of soup and bread roll.
  - Holiday and Activity Fund sessions have been delivered again across the county to families and children. There has been a focus on targeting schools with high free school meal data and building relationships with HAF providers. We have seen increased engagement from children on free school meals since last year including participation in the summer reading challenge.

## *Digital activities*

47. Social media – Library branches use a range of social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram etc.) to engage with customers, encourage use, help

communities feel connected and informed. This can range from finding the right book, to promoting key partner and library services.

48. Digital volunteers provide 1:1 support for customers that have more complex queries or need to learn how to access materials online.
49. **Case Study 6:** *“I have been an IT volunteer for a while now and lately there has been an upturn of people with high anxiety needing help to understand computer vocabulary e.g., apps, tabs, data charges, search engine results, concerns over privacy, costs, and banking. Recently a customer needed access to the NHS app and GP webpages; following a couple of sessions, the customer is now confident to check their records and make appointments, taking away their fear of accessing things digitally.”*
50. Hampshire has a very successful e-book and e-audio platform. Customers are now borrowing 98% more digital books than they were in 2019/20. In total, Hampshire residents borrowed over 1 million digital books last year. This digital borrowing figure rises to 1.9million issues when e-Newspapers and e-Magazines are also considered.

#### *Home Library Service*

51. The [Home library service](#) (HLS) is an invaluable resource for anyone in Hampshire who finds it difficult to access a library due to ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities. The Service provides the opportunity for individuals to continue to enjoy the pleasure of reading and learning, as well as regular contact with a friendly volunteer, helping reduce social isolation. Many customers also use our Reading Friends telephone service, receiving regular phone calls to discuss shared interests in books or hobbies. We currently have 227 active volunteers visiting 406 customers, and 30 volunteers dedicated to telephoning 45 reading friend participants.
52. **Case study 7:** *“I have been very impressed with the HLS service which is about so much more than reading. Our volunteer is kind and spends time giving my elderly Mum much appreciated companionship to overcome loneliness and helps her mental health.”*

#### *Campaigns and targeted projects with partners*

53. **Domestic Abuse Support** - Hampshire Libraries have worked in partnership with Hampshire Police and Stop Domestic Abuse on a project to improve support to survivors and/or victims of domestic abuse so they can easily and discreetly access information and support through literature, free to use library computers and trained staff.
54. **Case Study 8:** *A note left in a Domestic Abuse book 'No Visible Bruises': “Thank you for putting books on display about domestic abuse. I don't know where to find them and don't feel I can ask. Would you be able to leave out books on emotional (non-violent) abuse, please? I will come in whenever I*

*can. They are helping me understand things better and I'm sure others really appreciate this too, so a huge thank you Library team. PS - I'm safe - just recovering. No need to panic!"*

55. **Death Positive Libraries** The Death Positive project aims to remove barriers when talking about death and dying and supports individuals with bereavement. We have five Death Positive hubs across Hampshire and have worked with partners to provide a book collection and bereavement support groups.
56. Bereavement groups are successful not only in supporting grief, but also lowering social isolation. To date, the average attendance at a session is 11 people, with a total of 644 attendees across 57 sessions. Further to this a recent Living with Loss survey identified that confidence to talk about death and dying had increased amongst all attendees in our groups.
57. The book collection comprises physical and digital titles, for both children and adults. Within its first year, the physical collection had over 1,000 issues closely followed by 837 issues from the digital collection.
58. We plan to continue to offer supportive events and work alongside the charity Ripple to aid with the suicide prevention strategy.

#### *Climate change*

59. Hampshire Library Service made a strong commitment to addressing the climate emergency when they joined the Green Libraries Partnership and Manifesto in 2022, since then we have:
  - Secured funding from Arts Council England's Libraries Improvement Fund to create a 'Green library' to showcase how libraries can reduce their impact on the environment and engage and inform the local community on the topic. Bridgemary Library was selected for this scheme as the building was in need of some heating investment and easy to improve and the community is considered harder to engage in the topic.
  - Run a social media campaign 'Earth Matter's March' (March 2022) sharing hints and tips for saving money and energy/waste.
  - Formed a partnership with Natural England and Libraries Connected to develop and pilot the Nature Moments project, which is now being rolled out across England.
  - Used funding to improve customer engagement with climate change through multiple initiatives including creating appealing outdoor spaces at libraries, planting trees, providing free water refill points and labelling bins.
  - Worked with partners, including the Hampshire Waste Prevention team and Learning in Libraries to deliver a free Festival of Climate Change in February 2023. During the 10-day festival 152 events were delivered across all 40 libraries. This festival will continue annually, but with a closer link for climate change and cost of living next year.

## Volunteers

60. The Library Service makes extensive use of volunteers.
61. **Branch Volunteers** help deliver activities, support customers to access computers, and help keep the libraries tidy and organised both inside and out, where we have grounds or gardens. Library volunteers provided over 16,000 hours of direct support to the service in 2022/23 and brought a multitude of skills, adding value to our teams and communities.
62. **Young Volunteers** have opportunities to build skills and provide support in communities through several schemes, including Work experience, Duke of Edinburgh volunteers and supported internships. We are currently developing a pilot scheme with the Youth Offending Team to include libraries in community payback schemes.
63. Many volunteers go on to employment opportunities or remain volunteering with the library service.
64. **Case Study 9:** *“We have worked with Hampshire Futures by recruiting Stephen for an internship at New Milton Library, in summer 2021, working every Thursday 10-4 with his support worker for a few weeks to become familiar with supporting at rhyme time which he really loves, this includes managing the music for songs, he also helps us to plan and prep new craft ideas for our children’s activities as well as shelving and tidying the library. He has flourished and is a valuable member of our team. And when I asked him if he wanted to carry on after his internship he was thrilled as he loves to be with us come rain or shine.”*
65. **Home Library Service Volunteers** select books for customers who are unable to visit the library due to ill-health, disability, or caring responsibility. They also provide social contact and signpost to support where needed.
66. **Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers** support our annual summer challenge.
67. **Case Study 10:** *From a jubilant 4-year old completing her first SRC to a spirited teen, volunteering her time to help others with their own summer reading efforts. A decade-long journey comes full circle. A heart-warming testament to how childhood reading can spark lifelong passion for books and nurturing literacy in others.*

## Key Partners

68. Libraries work with over 60 partners currently which comprise of some who hire space to deliver services or activities, and others who work together with our teams to provide events, activities, signposting and information.

## Partners



### The quantitative and qualitative impact of libraries

69. Hampshire Library service joined Children's Services in a very strong position, as evidenced in CIPFA's most recent Public Library Statistics 2021/22 report. While HCC remains a top performing authority – most issues, most visits, most elluses of any county authority – it does so efficiently as evidenced by:
- spending less overall per 1000/population than most other English counties
  - having the lowest number of libraries relative to population of any English county
  - having less staff per 1000/population than the majority of other English counties.
70. In line with all parts of the County Council, and in the face of the challenging economic environment, the Library Service will continue to explore even more efficient ways of providing the service.
71. It is widely acknowledged that CIPFA data (which is now based on returns from only 40% of local authorities) cannot identify the full value of library services locally and nationally. Whilst CIPFA details the quantitative data it does not provide the qualitative evidence that libraries are being encouraged and requested to provide.
72. According to the Arts Council of England, 77% of people believe that libraries are either essential or very important to their community. Furthermore, library attendance is positively associated with well-being, with libraries improving digital and health literacy and supporting self-care and community prescribing, saving the NHS at least £27.5m annually in the process, according to the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

73. There have been several reports following independent research that provide qualitative evidence of the positive impact of libraries. Two key reports published in 2023 both found that libraries provide at least six times the known annual costs of running libraries nationally.
74. The most recent, Library for Living, and for Living Better investigated three main themes: digital inclusion; health, wellbeing, and independent living; and Children's literacy & associated outcomes, all of which are high on Hampshire Libraries' current vision and strategy. The report conservatively estimates that library services in England can generate social benefits to their communities to a value of at least £3.4bn per year in relation to the three value dimensions investigated. The report further identifies how libraries provide safe and comfortable spaces where people can develop their literacy skills, and a place that offers important support when individuals experience crisis moments of digital exclusion. Libraries are places of living literacy, raising children's literacy levels and with potential to return a value of up to £60,000 throughout each child's lifetime.

### **A forward look**

75. Hampshire Library Service continues to work hard, both internally and externally, to ensure the most effective means of meeting local needs **while continuing to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service on behalf of the County Council and Hampshire's residents.**
76. We are undertaking an internal review of our core offers to ensure we continue to develop services and partnerships which provide the universal duties and vision for Hampshire Libraries.
77. Hampshire Libraries will also seek to align with the new community hub concept under development within the wider Children's Services Directorate. An example of this is the role libraries provide in preparing children for learning and school through our resources and activities. More cohesive working with Children's Services, education, health partners, and community organisations, will link up early help offers available to communities, with the aim of preventing the costly escalation of needs, whilst providing a safe and non-stigmatising space for families.
78. The Library Service continues to work closely with a range of District and Borough Councils to ensure that Libraries are at the heart of the development of high street regeneration plans and cultural strategies. **There is increasing recognition that cultural venues including libraries play an important role in healthy and prosperous streets.**
79. All of this is set within a context of operating as an efficient public service, with a keen focus on opportunities for income and sustaining a commercial mindset. Our focus remains on making connections, improving advocacy and driving partnership working to further promote **the service, drive up footfall, outreach, and income generation.**

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	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.)**

Document

Location

None

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **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 by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

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

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

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

No statement required for this report.



## **Reference materials**

[Libraries as a statutory service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Report under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 for 2022/23 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Libraries Deliver - Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Universal Library Offers | Libraries Connected](#)

[Ready to Learn Campaign | Libraries Connected](#)

[Death positive libraries: A national framework | Libraries Connected](#)

[Green Libraries Partnership: How libraries can get involved | Libraries Connected](#)

[Report under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 for 2022/23 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<https://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/event.php?eventUID=NH10-PPE>

[Libraries for Living, and for Living Better.pdf \(librariesconnected.org.uk\)](#)

[moore-kingston-smith-impact-report-jan-23.pdf \(suffolklibraries.co.uk\)](#)