

Proposal 1: Play Centres

1. Background and proposal consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for play centres and sets out the recommendation for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Play Centres equality and consultation analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- For the Council to stop providing play activities at Edgewick and Eagle Street Play Centres and to explore the option for them to be used for nursery provision for two, three and four year olds instead.

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals.

A total of 7 meetings were held to specifically discuss the play centre proposal. These included: 4 public consultation meetings, two held at each of the play centres attended by a total of 66 people; 1 staff consultation meeting held at Edgewick Play Centre attended by all 8 staff members and two Trade Union representatives were also present and 2 sessions to get the views of children within the context of the play centre sessions one at each of the play centres with 30 children attending at Eagle Street and 28 children attending at Edgewick.

A total of 134 people attended these consultation meetings.

A total of 75 responses (surveys and meetings) were received for the play centre proposals, with some of these being received on behalf of several people and as a result of group discussion. In addition there were 5 petitions (with a total of 693 signatories), media coverage, and 266 letters from children, pictures, scrapbook and opposition from a local school.

3. Consultation themes

The overriding message in response to the consultation is that people are strongly opposed to the proposal and value the play centres. The key themes (across feedback from adults and children) underpinning this are as follows:

Theme 1 – Keeping children safe:

A concern raised by respondents through the consultation is the current lack of safe places for children to go out of school hours within the area, the fear is if play activities should cease being provided from play centre locations it would reduce opportunities for children to engage in play based activities in a safe environment that parents value and trust and children enjoy.

Respondents felt that there were very few alternatives for children to attend out of school provision as the cost of childcare in the area is not affordable.

Both children and parents valued the centre staff in providing support, advice and guidance when needed. Concerns were raised over a range of safety issues in and around the surrounding areas of both centres.

Theme 2 - Risk of children engaging in anti – social behaviour

Play centres provide play based activities for children from 5 – 12 years and provides opportunities for children to experience a range of activities that takes them outside of their home and school environment. Children stressed that they valued the opportunity to meet and socialise with their friends at the play centre and engage in activities that they would not ordinarily have access to. The feeling within the community is that if such opportunities are removed then incidents of anti-social behaviour would increase across the area and a fear of children becoming socially isolated that could potentially result in increased incidents of radicalisation.

Theme 3 – Community cohesion

It was felt that play centres play a part in uniting children from a range of nationalities, cultures and religion by providing a community venue for children to come together outside of the school environment. Parents and children said that the staff fostered an inclusive and friendly environment. Respondents stressed that the location of play centres mean that they are seen as an integral part of the community that has supported local residents with wider community issues when required. The length of time that centres have been in operation as part of the community was also highlighted as having a positive impact on the community as a large number of parents consulted had attended the centres as children themselves.

Theme 4 – The cost of affordable childcare is too high and not affordable for parents.

The community felt that there are no real affordable options available to them as the cost of childcare to enable parents to attend work or training is too high. Some parents felt that there would be a negative impact on their family life and economic position as the play centres are used by working parents as childcare directly after the school day. Out of school provision was said to be minimal within the area, with services that are available being unaffordable to parents that use the centre.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

Feedback following the staff consultation session mirrored the themes stated above. Staff felt that children's safety and well-being needed to be a factor when considering any changes to services and highlighted that the areas served by the play centres required safe places for children to come together within the community. Staff referred to the service as a community resource and went over and above providing play activities for children who attended but liaised with other agencies in matters relating to local community issues. Trade Union representatives in attendance at the staff consultation session raised concerns of the potential loss of valued staff members who have built up the service over a significant number of years.

The formal response received by Trade Unions to the Connecting Communities Phase 1 consultation noted the following particularly relating to play centre services:

- As Foleshill is an identified area of high disadvantage, the ceasing of play centre activities would have an effect on the local community that falls outside of the ethos of Coventry being a "Marmot city".

- Current services provide support to working parents, without this service parents would not be able to engage in work or training and this would then impact on other systems within the city such as benefits, health, and housing.
- The Play Centre service plays a part in assisting social cohesion by offering provision that enable children from all cultures and faiths to have equal access to service. Should these closures go ahead impacts will be felt by children, families, workers, educational establishments, community shops and services. The voices of young people who use the centres should be listened to.
- If progressing with the closure of a council run play centre Trade Unions believe that the council should look to enable a not for profit or co-operative organisation to provide play opportunities rather than nursery provision.
- Vulnerable children can access play centre services that means that the council can exercise a safeguarding function outside of the social care arena.
- Both Play Centres provide a safe play environment which is too valuable to lose. Concerns that with more pressure in schools, shorter breaks and less opportunities for physical activities in schools, the opportunities for children to meet together with their peers for play activities is diminishing. Too many children are 'playing' alone on line and not having access to the valuable experiences they get at the two play centres.
- The City Council needs to find ways to invest in more play facilities to enable more children to experience the opportunities offered by these centres rather than thinking about the savings that the council need to make.

5. Recommendation and summary

The potential impact of the proposals is now better understood following the consultation. The recommended proposal for implementation is:

For the Council to stop providing play activities at Edgewick and Eagle Street Play Centres and for the Council to lease the buildings to third party operators to be used for nursery provision for two, three and four year olds instead by September 2016.

This proposal has generated the most opposition, with 5 petitions, media coverage, letters from children and opposition from a local school. Parents are particularly concerned about a lack of safe places for children to play in Foleshill and consider the Play Centres to have a positive impact on the lives of their children. At the time of writing the original proposal document in November 2015, 173 children were registered across both the Play Centres (including 14 known to Children's Services).

The viability of using the existing Play Centre buildings for nursery provision was explored during the consultation period and the response was positive, with 3 providers planning to submit a business case for Play Centres, a further two just for Eagle Street and one just for Edgewick. (A panel will meet in February 2016 to consider business cases). There is also a clear evidence base to demonstrate the need for nursery provision in the Foleshill area; particularly access to free early education places for 2 year olds. Foleshill has a lower uptake than other areas of Coventry with 52% of eligible children accessing their entitlement (Nov 2015). This links to the Early Help and

Prevention Strategic objectives of supporting children to get ready for school, by giving them quality early learning opportunities and giving them the best start in life.

Free early education for the most disadvantaged two year olds was first piloted in 2006 and continues to remain a government priority. Sufficient provision of early education for two year olds is key to improving attainment and the life chances of some of the most vulnerable children. Research has demonstrated that access to good quality early learning and education has a long term impact on attitudes to the importance of school attendance (Effective Provision of Pre School Education- EPPE 2014) and, very importantly to school readiness. It also provides an opportunity to support parents return to or extend their work or training, therefore enabling some mothers to return to work, benefitting the maternal labour market and economic growth locally.

The proposal remains the same. Potential nursery providers will be encouraged to consider their ability to provide activities for children at all times of the day but this would be at their own cost; although there may be opportunities for providers to apply for a broader range of funding to provide this type of activity. There would be no resource or commissioning commitment from the City Council in relation to this and decisions in this respect would be completely at the providers own risk. If potential nursery providers chose to provide play activities then they may charge for this service Local schools will also be encouraged to consider additional after-school provision – although these decisions are at the discretion of these individual schools.

In addition, the role of the Childrens Centre also based in Foleshill, will be explored to identify the contribution that the Centre can make to support the mitigation of some of the perceived impacts of the Council ceasing to provide play activities e.g. provision of information and advice, contact point to raise safeguarding concerns.

A plan will be developed to stop providing play activities from the existing Play Centre buildings and for nursery providers to begin delivery by September 2016. Existing play activities would stop prior to this date, subject to staff consultation and implementation will be carefully managed.

Proposal 2: Arena Park Library

1. Background and proposal consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for Arena Park Library and sets out the proposal recommended for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Arena Park Library Equality and Consultation Analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- For the Council to end delivery of library services from the Arena Library facility (and not renew the lease) and to enter into discussions to relocate reduced library provision at an alternative community location in Holbrooks.

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals.

A total of 67 meetings were held to discuss the range of library proposals. Of these, 18 were public consultation meetings held in libraries directly affected by the proposals and these were attended by a total of 148 people. 2 of these were held at Arena Park Library. 28 staff consultation meetings held at every library in the city and attended by staff. A Trade Union representative was present at many of the sessions. 10 partner organisation meetings were attended to gather feedback from a wide range of people and spread the word about the Connecting Communities consultation.

A total of 227 responses were received to the Arena Park library proposal through the online survey, with some of these being received on behalf of a several people as a result of group discussions.

There was one petition against closure of the Arena Library Service. The petition, "Save Arena Park Library Community Hub" and as at 12th February 2016, this had gathered 5 signatures.

2.1 Consultation response themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow those views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of meetings and individual responses have been analysed to produce the main themes that are outlined in the following section.

Theme 1 – Ease of access at Current Location

Respondents wanted the library to remain in its current location, seeing it as being conveniently located within the heart of the Arena Park Shopping Centre. They cited the good bus services for those travelling on public transport, free car parking for car users and disabled parking spaces near to the library. They commented that the building had good accessibility and were concerned that if the library was moved to a different location it would not have all the features outlined above.

20% of people who replied to proposal 2 considered themselves to be a disabled person. Concern was expressed that people with a disability would find it difficult to access HCCA and other libraries due to complicated journeys involving two buses, and car parking difficulties.

Theme 2 – Community value of current library

Respondents identified the importance of libraries as community and educational hubs. They also found them to be valuable focal points for communities. Many people said that the library service is not just about books but offers many other services for the local community and that the library is a great place to study, meet and socialise. Respondents said that libraries are valuable for a wide range of people including vulnerable elderly people, supporting education and literacy of children as well as supporting people where English is their second language.

People talked about how they were isolated and lonely until library staff encouraged them to join the friendship group and 'knit and knatter' group at the library. People explained that this was beneficial to their Health and Well-being.

During public meetings it was stressed how much the elderly Asian community value the space at Arena Park library to read newspapers and books and to socialise.

Theme 3: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) access

The theme of ICT access was linked to the theme of the community value of the current library. Respondents appreciated the opportunity to have ICT access and the opportunity to receive help from staff. People spoke about the increasing pressure to use ICT for essential day to day life for example applying for jobs, searching for a home on homefinder etc. People were very concerned about how they would be able to access ICT in the future and the impact this would have on their lives.

Theme 4 – Children and Young People

Many people spoke about the use that children and young people make of the library. People valued the support that the library and its staff provide to children from a very early age for example children attending rhymetime and the social interaction with other parents. People spoke about how much they appreciated the access to a wide range of materials at the library and were concerned that this would be unavailable in future. The library resources and staff were also valued for supporting children with their homework and education.

Theme 5 – Proposed alternative location – HCCA

This became a prevalent theme once the location was shared as part of the consultation (5th January 2016).

Questions were raised about whether HCCA was an equivalent library provision to the Arena Park Library. People asked if library staff would be present in the building.

People expressed concern about access to HCCA. Reasons given were the difficulties with parking and limited accessibility by public transport.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

Staff

A total of 27 staff meetings were held during the consultation.

Staff were keen that the quality of, and varied nature of, the services provided by libraries were recognised and stated that communities value the services they provide as they are inclusive services for everyone.

They clearly indicated that the phase 1 proposals would impact on the level of service and support they can provide to individual people who use library service (e.g. signposting activity). They were concerned about the impact of phase 1 proposals on their individual jobs and, should the proposals go ahead, how any resulting staffing restructures would be managed. Staff wanted to know more about the implications of Phase 2 and wanted to understand what this might mean to them.

Staff were concerned that the Connecting Communities programme was not well known or understood by the public for them to fully take part in the consultation.

Throughout the consultation library staff made alternative suggestions about how the service could save money or increase revenue. The majority of these suggestions would not have a significant impact on budgets but will be considered by the Library Service Management Team as ways to make further efficiencies within the service in the future.

Trade Unions

Trade Unions were regularly communicated with during the consultation process, including presentation at some of the staff consultation meetings.

Trade Unions sought clarity about Arena Park Library and where the proposed alternative community location could be. This was provided during consultation (Holbrooks Community Care Association), briefed to staff and updated on the Connecting Communities webpages.

Trade Unions also indicated that they would like to be involved in detail of planning the phase 2 Connecting Communities programme.

Trade Unions representatives raised a number of issues with regard to the terms and conditions of staff, how changes will be made to shift patterns and remuneration.

5. Recommendation and summary

The recommended proposal for implementation is:

To end delivery of library services from the Arena Park Library facility by not renewing the lease and to continue engagement with Holbrooks Community Care Association (HCCA) about the potential delivery of a reduced library service to be provided in the HCCA building by September 2016.

It has been made clear throughout the consultation that this will be an end of delivering library service at the Arena Park Library and relocate a reduced library provision which may include offering fewer opening hours, a reduced Library staff provision, fewer items of stock. However, the themes raised during the consultation - including ease of access, community hub and ICT access - have been heard and will be taken into account in the planning and delivery of a reduced library provision. The public would have 24/7 online access to renewal, reservation and online reference resources.

The recommended proposal maintains library provision in the Holbrooks area within a community location whilst delivering the City Council financial savings. Users unable to make use of Holbrooks Community Care Association will be able to access other Libraries in the north of the City plus the Central Library.

The library service will work with groups in the communities of Holbrooks and Longford to develop new ways of delivering library services.

Issues raised by staff and trade unions will be addressed in detail during a staff consultation exercise should the proposals be approved for implementation.

Proposal 3: Willenhall Library

1. Background and proposal consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for Willenhall Library and sets out the proposal recommended for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Arena Park Library Equality and Consultation Analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- For the Council to end delivery of library services (and not renew the lease) from the current Willenhall Library facility and to continue discussions with the Hagard Centre about a more cost effective community library being located within the Centre.

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals.

A total of 67 meetings were held to discuss the range of library proposals. Of these, 18 were public consultation meetings held in libraries directly affected by the proposals and these were attended by a total of 148 people. 2 of these were held at Willenhall Library. 28 staff consultation meetings held at every library in the city and attended by many staff members. A Trade Union representative was present at many of the sessions. 10 partner organisation meetings were attended to gather feedback from a wide range of people and spread the word about the Connecting Communities consultation.

In total 86 responses were received to the Willenhall library proposal, with some of these being received on behalf of a several people as a result of group discussion.

2.1 Consultation response themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow those views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of meetings and individual responses have been analysed to produce the main themes that are outlined in the following section.

Theme 1 – Want the library service to remain the same

Respondents expressed that they like and value the current library arrangements in Willenhall. The current building was purpose build as a community library in a particularly convenient location and respondents do not want to see a change to this.

Theme 2 – Concerns about reduction in services and what the new service will be

Respondents were concerned about what new service provision will look like. They feel strongly that an equivalent access to computers is maintained to support digital citizenship and home work. Respondents value the current library space for activities, study, meetings and the variety of books. They are concerned about whether these aspects of service will be available if the library relocated to the Hagard Centre.

Theme 3 – Concern about appropriateness of Hagard Centre for Library provision

Concerns were expressed about the choice of the Hagard Centre as the alternative location and whether this would be fit for purpose and if a viable library service could be delivered there. These included concerns about accessibility and particularly for disabled people and children. Respondents expressed concerns about whether the welcoming atmosphere could be recreated and identified issues such as noise levels in the busy environment of the building. Some respondents were concerned that the Hagard did not provide a 'learning' environment.

Willenhall is a disadvantaged area and during the consultation a number of respondents made comments questioning why the Council had identified Willenhall for service reduction. There was a feeling that the local community had high needs which should be met by a high level of service provision.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

Staff

A total of 27 staff meetings were held during the consultation.

Staff were keen that the quality of, and varied nature of, the services provided by libraries were recognised and stated that communities value the services they provide as they are inclusive services for everyone.

They clearly indicated that the phase 1 proposals would impact on the level of service and support they can provide to individual people who use library service (e.g. signposting activity). They were concerned about the impact of phase 1 proposals on their individual jobs and, should the proposals go ahead, how any resulting staffing restructures would be managed. Staff wanted to know more about the implications of Phase 2 and wanted to understand what this might mean to them.

Staff were concerned that the Connecting Communities programme was not well known or understood by the public for them to fully take part in the consultation.

Throughout the consultation library staff made alternative suggestions about how the service could save money or increase revenue. The majority of these suggestions would not have a significant impact budgets but will be considered by the Library Service Management Team as ways to make further efficiencies within the service in the future.

Trade Unions

Trade Unions were regularly communicated with during the consultation process, including presentation at some of the staff consultation meetings.

Trade Unions also indicated that they would like to be involved in detail of planning the phase 2 Connecting Communities programme.

Trade Unions representatives raised a number of issues with regard to the terms and conditions of staff, how changes will be made to shift patterns and remuneration. These will be addressed in detail during a staff consultation exercise should the proposals be approved for implementation.

5. Recommendation and summary

The potential impact of the proposal is now better understood following the consultation. The recommended proposal for implementation is:

For the Council to end delivery of library services by not renewing the lease from the current Willenhall Library facility and to continue engagement about the potential delivery of a reduced library service to be provided in the Hagard Centre building by September 2016.

Representatives from the Hagard Centre have confirmed that they are able to offer space for a relocated library in their building. Some concerns have been expressed about the size of the potential new provision, as well as access limitations and the environment of the new library space. There are further concerns regarding whether all current library services will be re-located for example the level of ICT in the proposed new location.

The library service is conscious of all of these concerns. While the space available in the Hagard is smaller than the present Willenhall Library key services such as computer provision will be transferred in full. Library stock will be reviewed to ensure that the most heavily demanded is prioritised and discussions will take place to house existing events and activities within the new Library, to work in partnership with the Hagard or find alternative locations within the local Community.

A plan will be developed for the Hagard Centre to be providing a new library service by September 2016.

An expression of interest in the Transition Fund has also been received to support the delivery of this alternative library service. This will be progressed through the Transition Fund process for evaluation and award.

The recommended proposal maintains library provision the Willenhall area within a convenient community location whilst delivering the City Council financial savings.

Proposal 4: Mobile Library Service

1. Background and proposal consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for the Mobile Library and sets out the proposal recommended for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Mobile Library Equality and Consultation Analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- For the Council to end the mobile library service.

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals.

A total of 67 meetings were held to discuss the range of library proposals. Of these, 18 were public consultation meetings held in libraries directly affected by the proposals and these were attended by a total of 148 people. 28 staff consultation meetings held at every library in the city and attended by many staff members. A Trade Union representative was present at many of the sessions. 10 partner organisation meetings were attended to gather feedback from a wide range of people and spread the word about the Connecting Communities consultation.

A total of 117 responses were received to the Mobile library proposal, with some of these being received on behalf of a several people as a result of group discussion.

There was one petition against closure of the Mobile Library Service. The petition is Save the Mobile Library Service in Coventry and as at 12th February 2016 it had 209 signatures.

2.1 Consultation response themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow those views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of meetings and individual responses have been analysed to produce the main themes that are outlined in the following section.

Theme 1 – Loss of social interaction from visits of the mobile library

Respondents commented that the mobile library service provides social interaction for people with library staff and neighbours. They were concerned about the impact of this social interaction being lost – particularly for older people. Regular users value the current service and its extensive city-wide coverage. The ending of the mobile library service was seen to restrict access to reading material.

Theme 2 – Concern access to alternative provision

Respondents raised issues about the ability of mobile library users to access alternative library provision. This was cited as being the case due to many users being non-car drivers, having mobility problems or there being insufficient bus services. Many respondents regarded the mobile library as a key component to their lives and its removal would have a negative impact on the elderly and those with mobility issues.

Respondents were concerned about any potential loss of service for young people. In particular the potential impact caused by any reduced access to books and thereby its impact on literacy and reading levels.

Theme 3 – Queries related to the Housebound Service operated in partnership with Age UK

Respondents were concerned about any future service that removed their independence to select their own material. Concerns were raised by some respondents about the service provided by Age UK. Concerns focused on whether this service would be able to meet the needs of all mobile library users and what the Age UK service provides. Respondents also expressed concerns about whether the funding for the Age UK service would be cut in the future.

Theme 4 – Alternative suggestions

Some suggestions were put forward aimed at trying to retain some form of mobile library provision. These included moving either to a fortnightly mobile service – which would save some staffing costs, or alternatively operating a service over fewer stops or fewer days.

Other suggestions included transporting users to their nearest static Library or commissioning Warwickshire County Council to deliver a mobile service on our behalf.

A view was also put forward that fixed library locations were a higher priority than the mobile library service.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

Staff

A total of 27 staff meetings were held during the consultation.

Staff were keen that the quality of, and varied nature of, the services provided by libraries were recognised and stated that communities value the services they provide as they are inclusive services for everyone.

They clearly indicated that the phase 1 proposals would impact on the level of service and support they can provide to individual people who use library service (e.g. signposting activity). They were concerned about the impact of phase 1 proposals on their individual jobs and, should the proposals go ahead, how any resulting staffing restructures would be managed. Staff wanted to know more about the implications of Phase 2 and wanted to understand what this might mean to them.

Staff were concerned that the Connecting Communities programme was not well known or understood by the public for them to fully take part in the consultation.

Throughout the consultation library staff made alternative suggestions about how the service could save money or increase revenue. The majority of these suggestions would not have a significant impact budgets but will be considered by the Library Service Management Team as ways to make further efficiencies within the service in the future.

Trade Unions

Trade Unions were regularly communicated with during the consultation process, including presentation at some of the staff consultation meetings.

Trade Unions have raised specific concerns about the impact on people who cannot access libraries if mobile library service ceases.

They also indicated that they would like to be involved in detail of planning the phase 2 Connecting Communities programme.

Trade Unions representatives raised a number of issues with regard to the terms and conditions of staff, how changes will be made to shift patterns and remuneration. These will be addressed in detail during a staff consultation exercise should the proposals be approved for implementation.

5. Recommendation and summary

The potential impact of the proposal is now better understood following the consultation. The recommended proposal for implementation is:

For the Council to end the Mobile Library Service by 1 June 2016.

Given the small geographic size of Coventry and the relative closeness of residents to a static Library; plus the limited number of mobile library users who do not already make use of a static Library, the preferred model for the future is to end the mobile library service.

The Home Library Service which delivers books to housebound people through a partnership with Age UK Coventry will support people who are housebound by providing a monthly delivery of library books and talking books.

The options of a reduced Mobile Library Service or commissioning Warwickshire County Council to deliver a service in Coventry would not deliver the savings needed.

It is proposed that implementation will be by June 2016 or earlier, subject to the outcome of a staff consultation exercise.

During this time efforts will be made to ensure that where appropriate users of the mobile library with limited mobility will be introduced to the housebound service. For other users efforts will be made to encourage them to utilise their nearest local library. The Library Service will promote the 24/7 online service to renewal, reservation and online resources.

Proposal 5: Library Media Fund

1. Background and proposal consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for the Library Media Fund and sets out the proposal recommended for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Library Media Fund Equality and Consultation Analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- To cut the library media budget of £658,000 to £558,000 for 2016/17.

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals.

A total of 67 meetings were held to discuss the range of library proposals. Of these, 18 were public consultation meetings held in libraries directly affected by the proposals and these were attended by a total of 148 people. 28 staff consultation meetings held at every library in the city and attended by many staff members. A Trade Union representative was present at many of the sessions. 10 partner organisation meetings were attended to gather feedback from a wide range of people and spread the word about the Connecting Communities consultation.

In total 45 responses were received to the library media fund proposal, with some of these being received on behalf of a several people as a result of group discussion

2.1 Consultation response themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow those views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of meetings and individual responses have been analysed to produce the main themes that are outlined in the following section.

Theme 1 – Fund should not be cut

Concern that any cuts to the Media Fund will result in a reduced availability of stock and may therefore result in users fearing that they need to purchase material themselves. Users fear that they will not have the financial resources to do this.

Theme 2 – Mitigate potential effects of reduced media fund

The negative impact of reducing the media fund could be lessened by offering free reservations and circulating stock wider across the service.

Theme 3 – Focus cuts on magazines and DVD's

Respondents wished to concentrate any reduction of the media fund to concentrate on expenditure on magazines and DVD's rather than book stock.

Theme 4 – Protecting material for the visually impaired

People felt that the media fund is needed to provide a wide range of material, especially for those with visual impairments e.g. large print and talking books..

Note these themes are only based on 32 responses and therefore themes are all from less than 10 responses.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

Staff

A total of 27 staff meetings were held during the consultation.

Staff were keen that the quality of, and varied nature of, the services provided by libraries were recognised and stated that communities value the services they provide as they are inclusive services for everyone.

They clearly indicated that the phase 1 proposals would impact on the level of service and support they can provide to individual people who use library service (e.g. signposting activity). They were concerned about the impact of phase 1 proposals on their individual jobs and, should the proposals go ahead, how any resulting staffing restructures would be managed. Staff wanted to know more about the implications of Phase 2 and wanted to understand what this might mean to them.

Staff were concerned that the Connecting Communities programme was not well known or understood by the public for them to fully take part in the consultation.

Throughout the consultation library staff made alternative suggestions about how the service could save money or increase revenue. The majority of these suggestions would not have a significant impact budgets but will be considered by the Library Service Management Team as ways to make further efficiencies within the service in the future.

Trade Unions

Trade Unions were regularly communicated with during the consultation process, including presentation at some of the staff consultation meetings.

They also indicated that they would like to be involved in detail of planning the phase 2 Connecting Communities programme.

Trade Unions representatives raised a number of issues with regard to the terms and conditions of staff, how changes will be made to shift patterns and remuneration. These will be addressed in detail during a staff consultation exercise should the proposals be approved for implementation.

5. Recommendation and summary

The potential impact of the proposal is now better understood following the consultation. The recommended proposal for implementation is:

For the Council to cut the library media fund of £658,000 to £558,000 with effect from 1 April 2016.

The Library Service will implement the reduction by reducing expenditure on the library stock management software programme; reducing expenditure proportionately to reflect current user demand and by evaluating the purchase of electronic resources where these are more economic than printed items.

The budget allocated to DVD's will be reduced so that it matches the income received in 2015/16 with the aim of creating a neutral budget situation. Expenditure on magazines will be reduced and focused where appropriate on purchases in an electronic format.

Budgets will be prioritised so that the purchase of the most heavily demanded items will be largely protected. Items aimed at the visually impaired will also be prioritised. The Library Service will continue to look at how library stock is circulated around the service so that users continue to be offered a wide range of items to choose from.

**Proposal 6: Central Library Opening
Hours**

1. Background and proposal consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for Central Library Opening Hours and sets out the proposal recommended for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Central Library Opening Hours Equality and Consultation Analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- For Central Library to continue to open seven days week, but to close one hour earlier on weekdays – closing at 7pm instead of 8pm

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals.

A total of 67 meetings were held to discuss the range of library proposals. Of these, 18 were public consultation meetings held in libraries directly affected by the proposals and these were attended by a total of 148 people. 3 of these were held at Central Library. 28 staff consultation meetings held at every library in the city and attended by many staff members. A Trade Union representative was present at many of the sessions. 10 partner organisation meetings were attended to gather feedback from a wide range of people and spread the word about the Connecting Communities consultation.

In total 66 responses were received to the Central library proposal, with some of these being received on behalf of a several people as a result of group discussion.

2.1 Consultation response themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow those views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of meetings and individual responses have been analysed to produce the main themes that are outlined in the following section. The analysis is based on a very low number of responses and the majority of respondents did not answer all the questions.

Theme 1 – Importance of maintaining late evenings

Many respondents were concerned that closing at 7.00pm would drastically reduce their ability to access the Library – in particular those who work in non 9 to 5 jobs or those who have to travel considerable distances after finishing work.

Respondents felt that closing the Library an hour early would result in many people not being able to attend meetings/events or make full use of study space, especially for

teenagers and young people. Respondents expressed concern that the proposal would reduce their ability to access computers including applying for jobs.

Theme 2 – Alternative suggestion of pattern of opening hours

Suggestions for slightly different opening hours (e.g. open at 10am instead but stay open until 8pm) or close early one day a week to maintain 8.00pm on other evenings.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

Staff

A total of 27 staff meetings were held during the consultation.

Staff were keen that the quality of, and varied nature of, the services provided by libraries were recognised and stated that communities value the services they provide as they are inclusive services for everyone.

They clearly indicated that the phase 1 proposals would impact on the level of service and support they can provide to individual people who use library service (e.g. signposting activity). They were concerned about the impact of phase 1 proposals on their individual jobs and, should the proposals go ahead, how any resulting staffing restructures would be managed. Staff wanted to know more about the implications of Phase 2 and wanted to understand what this might mean to them.

Staff were concerned that the Connecting Communities programme was not well known or understood by the public for them to fully take part in the consultation.

Throughout the consultation library staff made alternative suggestions about how the service could save money or increase revenue. The majority of these suggestions would not have a significant impact budgets but will be considered by the Library Service Management Team as ways to make further efficiencies within the service in the future.

Trade Unions

Trade Unions were regularly communicated with during the consultation process, including presentation at some of the staff consultation meetings.

Trade Unions also indicated that they would like to be involved in detail of planning the phase 2 Connecting Communities programme.

Trade Unions representatives raised a number of issues with regard to the terms and conditions of staff, how changes will be made to shift patterns and remuneration. These will be addressed in detail during a staff consultation exercise should the proposals be approved for implementation.

5. Recommendation and summary

The potential impact of the proposal is now better understood following the consultation. The recommended proposal for implementation is:

Central Library to continue to open seven days per week, but to close one hour earlier on weekdays – closing 7pm instead of 8pm by September 2016.

The Library Service have reviewed the number of users accessing the Library at 9.30am and 7.30pm and have found the level of demand to be approximately the same. The Library Service will continue to promote its opening hours during the evenings and weekends outside of core working hours.

The early closure of Central Library on one evening in order to protect late opening has been previously tried and was not popular with many users. The selection of one evening to close early is likely to cause as many access issues for users as would be solved by maintaining opening hours on the other evenings.

**Proposal 7: Community Libraries
Opening Hours**

1. Background and proposal consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for Community Libraries Opening Hours and sets out the proposal recommended for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Community Libraries Opening Hours Equality and Consultation Analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- To standardise opening hours across all community libraries. All community libraries will be closed on Wednesdays and Sundays. This will mean Caludon Castle, Earlsdon and Foleshill libraries closing on Wednesdays and Bell Green, Earlsdon, Foleshill, Stoke and Tile Hill closing on Sundays. In addition to these reductions in opening hours, to pursue alternative ways of running the libraries working with other statutory and/or voluntary sector organisations and groups.

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals.

A total of 67 meetings were held to discuss the range of library proposals. Of these, 18 were public consultation meetings held in libraries directly affected by the proposals and these were attended by a total of 148 people. 28 staff consultation meetings held at every library in the city and attended by many staff members. A Trade Union representative was present at many of the sessions. 10 partner organisation meetings were attended to gather feedback from a wide range of people and spread the word about the Connecting Communities consultation.

A total of 227 responses were received to the Community Libraries Opening Hours proposal, with some of these being received on behalf of a several people as a result of group discussion.

2.1 Consultation response themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow those views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of meetings and individual responses have been analysed to produce the main themes that are outlined in the following section.

Theme 1 – Sunday Opening and the importance to local communities

A large majority of responses stressed how important Sunday opening was to allow them to access Library Services. People spoke about how important access on Sunday was for them as the library was part of their 'family time', other people explained how important it was to be able to utilise Library computers on Sundays to apply for jobs; some people said that Sunday was the only option available to them as they worked during the week.

A number of respondents were concerned about impact that closing libraries on Sundays would have on the ability of children to complete homework and to study. People thought that this would increase the inequality across the city with children in poorer areas with no access to the internet being deprived of access to ICT.

Theme 2 – Need to access Libraries throughout the week as they are important community hubs

Respondents recognised the importance of libraries as community hubs. Many respondents talked about how they valued their local libraries as a meeting place. Many spoke about groups that they had joined at the local Library and how this helped them to feel more connected to their local community. Libraries were seen as a safe, neutral and welcoming place to visit.

Some people commented that the proposal would 'disconnect' them from their local community as instead of using a local community facility they are being forced to travel to the city centre to access Library provision.

Theme 3 – Pattern of opening hours – proposed closure at other times of the week to keep Sunday open

Many people have suggested closing at other times during the week, either early in the morning or in the evening and using that to maintain Sunday opening. People have said that they really value libraries being open on Sundays and have suggested that the Library Service look at ways to maintain Sunday opening. Some people suggested exchanging Sunday hours for weekday hours. There were a number of contradicting responses about the use of volunteers to open libraries. Some people thought this was a good idea, whilst others feared the diminution of the library service as a result of this.

Theme 4 – Access to alternative provision

Respondents were concerned about utilising alternative library provision on Sunday and Wednesday. People said the cost of transport and/or parking in the City Centre would be prohibitive and some people explained that bus services were less frequent on Sunday's. Concern was expressed about the ability of Central Library to cope with the demand for ICT from people who currently use Community Libraries on Wednesday and Sundays.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

Staff

A total of 27 staff meetings were held during the consultation.

Staff were keen that the quality of, and varied nature of, the services provided by libraries were recognised and stated that communities value the services they provide as they are inclusive services for everyone.

They clearly indicated that the phase 1 proposals would impact on the level of service and support they can provide to individual people who use library service (e.g. signposting activity). They were concerned about the impact of phase 1 proposals on their individual jobs and, should the proposals go ahead, how any resulting staffing restructures would be managed. Staff wanted to know more about the implications of Phase 2 and wanted to understand what this might mean to them.

Staff were concerned that the Connecting Communities programme was not well known or understood by the public for them to fully take part in the consultation.

Throughout the consultation library staff made alternative suggestions about how the service could save money or increase revenue. The majority of these suggestions would not have a significant impact budgets but will be considered by the Library Service Management Team as ways to make further efficiencies within the service in the future.

Trade Unions

Trade Unions were regularly communicated with during the consultation process, including presentation at some of the staff consultation meetings.

Trade Unions also indicated that they would like to be involved in detail of planning the phase 2 Connecting Communities programme.

Trade Unions representatives raised a number of issues with regard to the terms and conditions of staff, how changes will be made to shift patterns and remuneration. These will be addressed in detail during a staff consultation exercise should the proposals be approved for implementation.

5. Recommendation and summary

The potential impact of the proposal is now better understood following the consultation. The recommended proposal for implementation is:

To close Caludon Castle, Earlsdon and Foleshill libraries on Wednesdays and close Stoke and Tile Hill on Sundays by September 2016. To agree in principle that Bell Green, Earlsdon and Foleshill libraries remain open on Sundays provided that officers are satisfied as to the viability of a mix of paid staff and volunteers operating the libraries on these days. In the event officers are not satisfied the question of whether the libraries should remain open on Sundays be referred back to the Cabinet Member for Education.

Community libraries would all be closed on Wednesday's. Central Library would remain open on Wednesdays and the public would have 24/7 online access to renewal, reservation and online reference resources.

Most of the proposals for the library service entail a reduction in staffing. To facilitate the re-scheduling of library staff and the HR process, September 2016 is recommended as the key end point for all changes involving staff to be implemented.

The Library Service are keen to explore new ways in which there can be a Sunday opening presence in local communities. At Bell Green, Foleshill and Earlsdon Libraries there will be a trial of a new approach to Sunday opening utilising self-service machines and volunteers supported by minimal staffing. Bell Green, Foleshill and Earlsdon have been identified for the trial approach based on overall performance on Sundays and aiming to provide a geographic spread of access across the city, whilst still providing financial savings. Stoke and Tile Hill Libraries are not included in the trial due to their overall performance on Sunday's being lower than Bell Green, Foleshill and Earlsdon and the need to contribute financial saving from Sunday opening hours.

This new model is proposed to be implemented in September and if there is no appetite from the local community to take this forward we would revert to the original proposal for closure.

WATCH, in Hillfields, and Cheylesmore Community Centre have submitted transition fund applications which are being further developed. The Library Service will work with them to scope out a future model for library service delivery to the communities of Hillfields and Cheylesmore.

1. Background and proposal consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for the Youth Service Commissioning Budget and sets out the proposal recommended for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Youth Service Commissioning Budget Equality and Consultation Analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- Withdraw the youth services commissioning budget for 2016/17 and work with the community and voluntary sector to explore the best way for that youth services for young people should be delivered in Coventry

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals.

A total of 8 meetings were held to specifically discuss the proposal relating to the youth commissioning budget. These included: 1 session for young people who were direct recipients of activities provided by the commissioning budget - attended by 9 young people; 1 session with the Coventry Youth Council - attended by 9 young people; 1 consultation meeting with partner organisations who had been in receipt of the commissioning budget - attended by 7 representatives from 5 organisations; 1 staff consultation meetings attended by 2 staff members; and 1 Trade Union briefing with the CYWU representative. A total of 29 people attended these meetings.

A total of 35 responses were received for the youth commissioning budget proposal.

2.1 Consultation response themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow those views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of meetings and individual responses have been analysed to produce the main themes that are outlined in the following sections:

Theme 1 – Impact on engagement of young people in positive sports activities

Some respondents felt that the loss of the youth commissioning budget would impact on the access that some young people have to positive sports activities provided by sports clubs. Specific impacts identified were that young people may not be able to afford to attend or travel to sports activities, that proposals could impact on the engagement of

girls in physical activity and the of young people with special educational needs and disabilities. A linked impact was that barriers are broken down between young people and adults in sports activities and opportunities for adult relationships.

Theme 2 - Increase in crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), instability and teen pregnancy

Following on from theme 1, several respondents raised that reduced activities would impact on the aspirations and inspiration of young people and that this could lead to an increase in crime, anti-social behaviour, instability and teen pregnancy. It could also impact on the behaviour of young people at school who they see as being difficult in classrooms.

Theme 3 – False economy

There was a theme of how the cut to this relatively small budget could have a negative financial impact on other specialist services which are more expensive. Reference was also made to the high cost of the new leisure centre in comparison to the youth commissioning budget.

Theme 4 – Loss of access to youth workers

Particular concern from young people that they would lose an access route to youth workers in whom they have trust and with whom they feel comfortable to talk about issues affecting them.

Theme 5 – Look at other ways of continuing provision

Some suggestions included: develop a Community Interest Company (CIC), the reduction in funding being funded through the Proceeds of Crime (PoCA funds), other sources of funding; efficiency savings; sustain most popular activities; ask organisations to reduce costs, including having activities run by volunteers and voluntarily rather than paid for by the Youth Service. At the same time, there is general concern in consultation responses on the reliance of youth activity delivery becoming more dependent on volunteer groups, pointing out that ‘they need help as well as support - increasingly hard for volunteer groups.’ Community groups and other agencies are potentially interested but would be unable to do so without funding. There is also anxiety about the readiness and suitability of external community providers e.g. health and safety, risk assessments DBS clearance for people delivering activities.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

Trade Union recognised there was no staffing impact except that young people affected may access mainstream service with consequence of an increased workload for staff. The NUT are opposed to the proposal while UNISON and Unite indicate their disappointment with the loss of opportunity for the local community to access funds. Staff feedback was limited; concern about the idea that replacements to the affected activities could be provided by the local community who may not have the necessary training and experience to work with ‘marginalised’ young people and/or would need support with regard to recruitment and selection of volunteers, DBS checks, health and

safety risk assessments, safeguarding and insurances. They also felt there would be a negative impact on workload as staff try to find ways to sustain activities previously commissioned. They felt that the proposal would have a 'profound' impact on young people because 'where will they go?' Young people attending the commissioned activities don't always access general Youth Service activities and as a result are putting them at risk of involvement in crime, anti-social behaviour and increased vulnerability. In both cases it was indicated that they were anticipating more significant changes in phase 2.

5. Recommendation and summary

The recommended proposal for implementation is:

Withdraw the youth services commissioning budget from 1 April 2016 and continue to work with the community and voluntary sector to explore the best way that youth services for young people should be delivered across Coventry.

The themes raised in the consultation are recognised. The recommendation is for the proposal to be unchanged for the following reasons:

- a) The Council's Integrated Youth Support service will continue at this stage and will actively engage with groups and volunteers who identify ways that they can support young people in the city.
- b) That although the reduction will have some impact, that some activities supported by the fund are largely universal and that where they are not, the youth service has contact with young people. Also recognise concerns raised by young people about the detriment of reducing access to skilled workers in whom they have confidence to discuss difficult issues. However since the majority of young people who have directly benefitted from these activities are already known to the Youth Service, we would anticipate continued access (at present anyway).

Local 'third sector' organisations were those commissioned to deliver the activities from when the budget was first available (2013 to date) and while some work is being undertaken to establish a Community Interest Company (CIC) for a number of local community youth sports clubs with some of the providers, other organisations have indicated they will not be able to provide activities without this additional funding (e.g. Right Trax; Woodley Academy)

Proposal 9: Public Conveniences

1. Background and proposal to be consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for Public Conveniences and sets out the proposed recommendation for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the Public Conveniences Equality and Consultation Analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- For the Council to close six public conveniences located outside of the city centre (Bell Green, Canal Basin, Earlsdon, Foleshill – Foleshill Road, Radford, Tile Hill – Jardine Crescent), keeping open the two city centre public conveniences.

2. Consultation approach and responses

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals. There were not any meetings held solely for the public conveniences proposal.

A total of 79 responses were received, of which 14 were summarised feedback from meetings.

a. Consultation response themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow these views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of meetings and individual responses have been analysed to produce the main themes that are outlined in the following section.

3. Consultation themes

Theme 1: No nearby public convenience alternatives

The concern expressed was what happens when someone is “caught short” when they could have used the public conveniences. In particular groups of people such as: people with disabilities/health issues, older people, pregnant women and those with young children were felt to be the most impacted groups from this proposal.

Theme 2: Some people won't go out or spend less time

Following on from this, some respondents said that a lack of public conveniences could mean that people don't go out as much or spend less time at shops. They suggested that this could impact on particular groups identified in theme one and income of local shops.

Theme 3: Alternative provision

Issues were raised about Council consideration of other alternatives. These included using alternative existing toilets in the area such as community facilities or businesses, charging the public to use public conveniences by getting community groups or businesses to either take over the running of existing public conveniences or by putting in new toilet pods.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

The proposal affects one member of staff who currently cleans the 6 public conveniences. The individual has been fully briefed on the proposal. The cleaning of the 6 public conveniences forms only part of their overall workload. Alternative cleaning work within existing working hours or reduction of working hours has been discussed. Trade Unions raised that refuse collectors and civil enforcement officers use the public toilets and asked the question of what they will do when they close.

5. Recommendation and summary

The recommended proposal for implementation is for the Council to:

Close six public conveniences located outside of the city centre from 1 April 2016, keeping open the two city centre public conveniences.

The rationale for this is:

- 1) There is no statutory requirement for the Council to provide public conveniences. There are currently many areas of the city where there is no Council provision of public conveniences and the location of the suburban public conveniences are a historic anomaly and do not reflect planned provision for need. The Council closed the Daventry Road facility in Cheylesmore in July 2013 and no reports, incidents/complaints have been recorded since the closure.
- 2) There are alternatives that can be used, although the Council can make no guarantee of these. Information about the location of alternative toilets that are available for the public to use can be found in the following ways:
 - The 'Disabled Go' website <http://www.disabledgo.com> identifies where toilets are available which would be suitable for use by a person with a disability
 - The Great British Toilet Map.
 - 'Apps' that can be downloaded including: Toilet Finder' and 'Flush'

Alternatives include the following:

a) *Libraries*

If a member of the public is using a Council library and there are toilets facilities available for public use they would be able to use these. If there are no public toilets available then a member of the library staff can be asked and it would be at the discretion of the member of staff, taking into account the particular circumstances, as to whether this permission would be granted; and

b) *Use alternative existing toilets in the area in 'community' facilities*

These are facilities such as in community centres, doctor's surgeries or in existing businesses such as shops or cafes/restaurants/bars. Local businesses can make their toilet facilities open to anyone, not just paying customers. This is not something that the Council can control or insist upon, it is the choice of the individual business. As with individual businesses, the Council would have no control over doctor's practices and whether they allowed the public to use toilet facilities if not attending the surgery. The same would apply to community buildings managed by community organisations and associations.

In addition, a number of organisations supporting people with medical conditions such as IBS and Crohns & Colitis provide 'Just Can't Wait' cards (for a nominal charge). These cards state that the holder has a medical condition and needs to use the toilet quickly. The organisations issuing the cards state that although they do not guarantee that the cards will give access they are widely accepted and acknowledged.

- 3) No organisations or businesses have come forward with a proposal to take over the provision of public conveniences, either in the existing facilities or by the provision of new toilet pods. If an organisation, business or group were to come forward with an alternative the Council would consider proposals, but on the basis that the Council has no future involvement in provision, nor would it commission this provision, and it would be at no cost to the Council. Some local authorities operate Community Toilet Schemes. However, these are generally city-centre schemes and also incur a cost for local authorities.
- 4) The Council needs to deliver its financial savings and the closure of public conveniences is a relatively low impact way of achieving financial savings.

Detail of the implications of the proposals is as follows:

Bell Green: Roseberry Avenue

These public conveniences form an integral part of the Emily Smith House flats and therefore cannot be demolished. The proposal would be to close the facility and to make secure.

Canal Basin

The block is freestanding and comprises public toilets and a boater's toilet & sanitary station. The proposal would be to close and make secure the public conveniences.

The Council has no responsibility for the 'boater's toilet & sanitary station' which are cleaned and maintained by the Canal & River Trust and will therefore remain. These are kept permanently locked and a 'boater's key' is required to gain access.

If a decision is made to close the public conveniences the Council would open discussions with the Canal and River Trust with regard to whether they would want to take on the responsibility for the whole of the block and use the existing public

conveniences for an alternative use e.g. to extend the existing 'boater's facilities or for storage.

Earlsdon – Albany Road

These public conveniences are built on to the side of the library building so it would be either not possible to or it would be extremely difficult/costly to demolish. The proposal would be to close the facility and make secure. In view of the location the Council would then look to market the building by initially seeking expressions of interest

Foleshill – Foleshill Road

This is a freestanding building. The proposal would be to initially close the facility and make secure. The public conveniences have been identified as the 'seat' of antisocial behaviour so the proposal would then be to demolish

Radford – Jubilee Crescent

These public conveniences have been built on to the side of the community centre/library so it would either not be possible to or it would be very difficult/costly to demolish. The proposal would be to close the facility and to secure.

Tile Hill – Jardine Crescent

This is a freestanding building and in poor condition. The proposal would be to close the facility and make secure and in view of the anti-social behaviour to then look to demolish. These public conveniences are within the area that is identified in the Emerging Local Plan (Section 5) to extend the Jardine Crescent District Centre.

Proposal 10: Community Centres

1. Background and proposal to be consulted on

This document summarises the consultation for community centres and sets out the recommendation for implementation. It should be read in conjunction with the community centres equality and consultation analysis document and the Connecting Communities cabinet report (23rd February 2016).

The proposal consulted on (from 7th December 2015 to 1st February 2016) was:

- For the Council to asset transfer remaining community centres (Henley Green, Stoke Aldermoor Life Centre, Holbrooks, Canley, Radford and Foleshill) to community organisations on a full responsibility basis.

2. Consultation summary

Throughout the consultation, a total of 80 meetings were held covering the range of Connecting Communities proposals. There were not any meetings held solely for the Community Centre's proposal.

A total of 28 online responses were received specifically for the Community Centre proposal.

2.1 Consultation themes

When comments have been provided, those comments have been analysed in order to allow those views to be taken into account. Some feedback refers to activities that were not the subject of the consultation and this is not included within the themes.

The content of all meetings and individual responses has been analysed and is summarised in the following themes:

Theme 1: Provides an opportunity for improvements

One respondent said that they were a regular user of Cheylesmore Community Centre and had seen a definite improvement in the building since the community association had taken on the lease. They commented that this proposal would benefit them as an individual because the savings made by the Council could be used for other purposes.

Theme 2: Issue of whether community groups would be able to manage this responsibility

One respondent asked whether community organisations would be able to manage the responsibility.

Theme 3: Issue of whether other groups can take on management of community centres

A question was raised during a meeting organised with Voluntary Action Coventry as to whether other community organisations would be able to take on the leases of the community centres in this proposal.

After the meeting a response was sent to VAC confirming that the current proposal is specifically in respect of getting the existing community associations in occupation and managing the community centres to enter into leases within 12 months from approval of the proposal. If this change is not implemented within the 12 month period then other community organisations would be given the opportunity to express an interest in taking over the management of the community centre and entering into a lease.

4. Staff and Trade Union feedback – summary

No Council staff are affected by this proposal.

5. Recommendation and summary

The recommended proposal is to

To enter into a lease with each of the community associations currently managing the community centres (six) within 12 months from approval of the proposal subject to variations to the approach specifically for Radford and Foleshill Community Centres.

If, by the end of 12 months working with community associations they have not completed the lease, the community association will be required to vacate the community centre and the Council will go out to seek expressions of interest for an alternative community organisation to take on the management of the community centre and enter into a lease. If no suitable community organisation is found then the Council will look to close the community centre.

Position statement

Henley Green Community Centre

The community association currently managing Henley Green Community Centre are already part way through the community asset transfer process and are now progressing towards completion of a lease. The Council would like to see this lease completed within the next 2 months.

Stoke Aldermoor Life Centre

The community association currently managing the Stoke Aldermoor Life Centre are already part way through the community asset transfer process and are now progressing towards completion of a lease. The Council would like to see this lease completed within the next 3 months.

Holbrooks Community Centre

Officers are now working with Holbrooks Community Association to enable them to complete a business case and then progress to completion of a lease for Holbrooks Community Centre.

Canley Community Centre

There have been a number of changes in respect of the organisation operating out of Canley Community Centre and until the governance of the organisation is established and stable a long term lease cannot be entered into. The proposal would therefore be to initially enter in to a one year full repairing and insuring lease, to establish if the organisation is in a position to take on a long term leasehold interest.

Radford Community Centre

Radford Community Association are keen to progress towards an asset transfer and take a long leasehold interest in Radford Community Centre but completion of a lease has been put on hold by the Council until a decision is made as to whether the community centre could/should be redeveloped to form a new community facility (with other uses) possibly in conjunction with interest from the nearby church to redevelop both sites. An expression of interest has been made to this effect in the transition fund and this should be explored in stage 2 of the Connecting Communities work. Officers have been in direct discussions with representatives from Radford Community Centre in this respect. For this reason the timescales referred to above will regard to the completion of a lease will not apply to Radford Community Association at Radford Community Centre.

Foleshill Community Centre

The previous community association who were managing Foleshill Community Centre vacated the property in March 2015 and the Council has been managing the centre on an interim basis. On 10th September 2015 Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-Operatives and Social Enterprise approved a recommendation to invite expressions of interest from interested organisations to run the community centre sustainably, by making it available for use by the whole community, but if no suitable organisation expressed interest to close the community centre and seek its redevelopment in accordance with current planning policies.

The Council is currently dealing with a legal challenge in respect of the community centre and until this matter is resolved cannot go out to seek expressions of interest.

As there is no community association currently managing the community centre and the process to seek expressions of interest to find a new organisation is on hold then Foleshill Community centre will not form part of the current proposal for community centres under 'Connecting Communities but will continue to be subject to the recommendation of Cabinet Member for Community Development, Cooperatives and Social Enterprise in the report dated 10th September. Officers will continue to defend the current legal challenge and would hope to have either a new organisation in occupation under a lease or the property returned to the Council and redevelopment options being sought for the site by 1st April 2017.