

Name of proposal/policy	Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service Review 2017: Brackley Library & Children's Centre	Budget number (if applicable)	
Service area responsible	Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service	Cabinet meeting date	19 th October 2017
Name of completing officer	Dawn Howsam / Ben Dawson	Date EqIA created	12 th December 2017
Approved by Director / Assistant Director	Esther Bushell	Date of approval	5 th February 2018

The Equality Act 2010 places a 'General Duty' on all public bodies to have 'Due regard' to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advancing equality of opportunity
- Fostering good relations

We do this by undertaking equality impact assessments (EqIAs) to help us understand the implications of policies and decisions on people with protected characteristics – EqIAs are our way of evidencing this.

All assessments must be published on the NCC equalities web pages. All Cabinet papers where an EqIA is relevant **MUST** include a link to the web page where this assessment will be published. If you require assistance in getting your EqIA published, please contact equalities@northamptonshire.gov.uk

PART 1

Description of current provision/policy and main beneficiaries/stakeholders

Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service, "LibraryPlus", provides a comprehensive range of services through 36 community hub libraries and a mobile library, enabling face to face access to a range of public services. Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' in the area that want to make use of it. In considering how best to deliver the statutory duty each library authority is responsible for determining, through consultation, the local needs and to deliver a modern and efficient library service that meets the requirements of their communities within available resources.

A full description of the breadth of the service is contained within the Library Service Review 2017 document and its appendix, and this EqlA should be read in conjunction with those documents.

Description of proposal under consideration/development

Three proposed future options for the library service are set out in the appendix to the October Cabinet paper on the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Option 1 – Retain 15 libraries. Develop a community model to run 21 libraries, where viable options for community managed libraries are put forward by alternative organisations. Brackley is one of the 15 libraries. Withdraw mobile library provision.

Option 2 – Retain 15 libraries. Close 21 libraries. Withdraw mobile library provision. Brackley is one of the 15 libraries.

Option 3 – Retain 8 libraries. Close 28 libraries. Withdraw mobile library provision. Brackley is one of the 28 libraries.


Data used in this Equality Impact Assessment (general population data where appropriate but each EqlA should contain information on people who use the service under consideration – if this is not applicable to your proposal then you probably do not need to do an EqlA)

Data Source (include link where published)	Please summarise what the data tells us – for example "X number of people use this service, X are male, Y are female etc."			
1) Demographic data collected by the library service from library membership records. The membership data is based on the records of members registered with the library and captures cards which were used in 2016/17. A membership card is only required for a few library services, for e.g. borrowing something, checking your account, renewing and requesting items. Many library services do not require membership and facilitate anonymous use as a community hub, for e.g.	Protected characteristics – Options 1 and 2 and 3		All libraries	Brackley Library
	Gender	Female	All Mship: 54% Adult Only Mship: 56% APLUS: 62%	All Mship: 54% Adult Only Mship: 56% APLUS: 68%
		Male	All Mship: 45%	All Mship: 45%
		Unknown	All Mship: 1%	All Mship: 2%

<p>visiting the library for any purpose, using the computer, attending activities, reading newspapers etc. There are no administration systems in place able to capture this use on an individual basis, though numbers of visits, attendances and use of some services are available.</p> <p>For Brackley the above data is based on 2,856 membership records of which 1,652 are from adults aged 18 and over.</p> <p>2) In 2016, 208 adults in Brackley Library took part in a week long visitor survey (the Adult Public library User Survey, or APLUS), where paper questionnaires are offered to all adult library visitors during the survey period.</p> <p>3) Analysis of distance to nearest NCC statutory library.</p>	Gender Reassignment		No data collected	No data collected
	Age	Children 0-10	31%	33%
		Young adults 11-17	9%	9%
		Adults 18+	60%	58%
		(of which aged 60+ for Mship and 65 and over for Adult Only Mship and APLUS)	All Mship: 23% Adult Only Mship: 36% APLUS: 34%	All Mship: 22% Adult Only Mship: 34% APLUS: 41%
	Disability	Disabled	All Mship: 3.8% Adult Only Mship: 5.2% APLUS: 24.9%	All Mship: 2.7% Adult Only Mship: 3.7% APLUS: 24%
		Not disabled/blank/ prefer not to state	All Mship: 96.2% Adult Only Mship: 94.8% APLUS: 75.1%	All Mship: 97.3% Adult Only Mship: 96.3% APLUS: 76%
	Race & Ethnicity	Asian or Asian British	All Mship: 2.4% Adult Only Mship: 1.7% APLUS: 2.7%	All Mship: 0.5% Adult Only Mship: 0.1% APLUS: 0%
		Black or Black British	All Mship: 2.3% Adult Only Mship: 1.3% APLUS: 2%	All Mship: 0.2% Adult Only Mship: 0.1% APLUS: 0.5%
		Mixed	All Mship: 1.5% Adult Only Mship: 0.6% APLUS: 1.6%	All Mship: 0.6% Adult Only Mship: 0.2% APLUS: 0.5%
		White	All Mship: 56.1% Adult Only Mship: 53.8%	All Mship: 66.1% Adult Only Mship: 59%

			APLUS: 79%	APLUS: 87%
		Blank/ prefer not to say/ other	All Mship: 37.7% Adult Only Mship: 42.7% APLUS: 14.7%	All Mship: 32.6% Adult Only Mship: 40.5% APLUS: 12%
	Sexual Orientation: From APLUS only	Heterosexual/ Straight	82.2%	82.1%
		Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual / Other	2.1%	2.2%
		No response	15.7%	15.6%
	Religion Or Belief	Blank/ Prefer not to state/ no religion	All Mship: 84.4% Adult Only Mship: 86.7% APLUS: 46.1%	All Mship: 76.7% Adult Only Mship: 80.2% APLUS: 46.6%
		Christian	All Mship: 13.4% Adult Only Mship: 11.7% APLUS: 48.8 %	All Mship: 21.4% Adult Only Mship: 18.2% APLUS: 51%
		Other religion	All Mship: 2.1% Adult Only Mship: 1.6% APLUS: 5.1%	All Mship: 1.9% Adult Only Mship: 1.6% APLUS: 2.4%
	Pregnancy And Maternity		No data collected	No data collected
	Proposed Closure – Option 1 and 2		Distance to nearest NCC statutory library	
This library is not proposed for closure.				
It is the nearest remaining NCC library for Middleton Cheney Library which is proposed for community model / closure in these options.				

	Proposed Closure – Option 3	Distance to nearest NCC statutory library
	Towcester	10.04 miles

Tick the relevant box for each line by using a capital 'P' to make a 	Based on the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups?			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex			✓	
Gender Reassignment			✓	
Age		✓		
Disability			✓	
Race & Ethnicity			✓	
Sexual Orientation			✓	
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)			✓	
Pregnancy & Maternity		✓		
Human Rights			✓	
Rural isolation		✓		
Socio-economic exclusion			✓	

Initial impact	
Explain your findings above	Actions identified to mitigate, advance equality or fill gaps in information
Sex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total membership data: 54% are female, the same percentage point as the service overall. Adults only membership data: 56% of adult members are female, the same percentage point as the service overall. APLUS: 54% of visitors are female, 8 percentage points lower than the service overall. 	The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.
Gender Reassignment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No data. 	The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.
Age: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total membership data: 55% of members are in the 0 to 10's or 60 and over range, the same percentage point as the service overall. Overall 33% are 0 to 10's, which is 2 	The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.

<p>percentage points higher than the service overall and 22% are 60 and over which is 1 percentage point lower than the service overall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults only membership data: 34% of adult members are aged 65 and over, 2 percentage points lower than the service overall. • APLUS: 41% of adult visitors are aged 65 and over, 7 percentage points higher than the service overall. 	
<p>Disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total membership data: 2.7% of members are disabled, 1.1 percentage points lower than the service overall. • Adults only membership data: 3.7% of adult members are disabled, 1.5 percentage points lower than the service overall. • APLUS: 24% of adult visitors are disabled, 0.9 percentage points lower than the service overall. 	<p>The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.</p>
<p>Race & Ethnicity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total membership data: 13% are members of ethnic groups, 1.3 percentage points higher than the service overall. • Adults only membership data: 0.4% are members of ethnic groups, 3.1 percentage points lower than the service overall. • APLUS: 1% are members of ethnic groups, 5.4 percentage points lower than the service overall. 	<p>The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.</p>
<p>Sexual Orientation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No membership data. • APLUS: 3.7% for Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual / Other, 2 percentage points higher than the service overall. The no response was 21.2%, 5, percentage points higher than the service overall. 	<p>The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.</p>
<p>Religion or Belief (or no Belief):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total membership data: has 1.9% Other, 0.2 percentage points lower than the service overall and 21.4% Christian, 8 percentage points higher than the service overall. • Adults only membership data: has 1.6% Other, the same percentage point as the service overall and 18.2% Christian, 6.5 percentage points higher than the service overall. • APLUS has 2.4% Other, 2.7 percentage points lower than the service overall and 51% Christian, 2.2 percentage points higher than the service overall. 	<p>The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.</p>

<p>Pregnancy & Maternity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered 181 activities for 0to4s and their parents and carers last year with 1,601 attendances by children aged 0to4 and overall a total of 2,990 attendances, an average of 17 per activity (Source: Library data). Included activities: Breastfeeding support drop-ins (Thursday 1000-1200). If Middleton Cheney Library is closed (option 2) then attendances could potentially increase by 22%, an additional 4, to 21 per session. If option 3 is selected, Brackley Library will be closed and the nearest library will be Towcester Library, 10.04 miles away. 	<p>The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.</p>																					
<p>Rural isolation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 2 bus journeys totalling at least 1 hour 13 minutes to reach the nearest proposed library. 	<p>The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.</p>																					
<p>Socio-economic exclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The library is in South Northamptonshire 010D LSOA which is ranked 14,989 out of 32,844 LSOAs. This is amongst the 50% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country (IMD score). 	<p>The proposals are undergoing consultation and this EqIA will be updated to reflect the findings and fill in gaps in information.</p>																					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 3 would see Brackley Library closed. If this option was to be implemented, the nearest remaining library would be Towcester Library, which is 10.04 miles away. 																						
<p>Public transport provision in the area? Car ownership?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus journeys of 1hr 13mins to 4hr 4mins (source: web search) 11.55% of households in the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) which mention Brackley have no car / van in the household (Source: Northamptonshire Analysis using Census and LSOA data). <p>APLUS 2016:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="107 1054 1375 1414"> <thead> <tr> <th>Library</th> <th>Private transport, e.g. car, motorbike</th> <th>Public transport, e.g. bus, train, metro / tram</th> <th>On foot</th> <th>Bicycle</th> <th>Other</th> <th>Blank</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Brackley</td> <td>56%</td> <td>3%</td> <td>33%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Service Average</td> <td>43%</td> <td>11%</td> <td>37%</td> <td>2%</td> <td>1%</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Library	Private transport, e.g. car, motorbike	Public transport, e.g. bus, train, metro / tram	On foot	Bicycle	Other	Blank	Brackley	56%	3%	33%	0%	0%	8%	Service Average	43%	11%	37%	2%	1%	7%	
Library	Private transport, e.g. car, motorbike	Public transport, e.g. bus, train, metro / tram	On foot	Bicycle	Other	Blank																
Brackley	56%	3%	33%	0%	0%	8%																
Service Average	43%	11%	37%	2%	1%	7%																
<p>Would the Library To You service provide any mitigating actions for users of Brackley Library?</p>																						

This service is for those who through age or disability cannot get to their nearest library. This service is delivered by Home Library Service Volunteers using their own transport and resources from the nearest library. Brackley currently has 1 volunteer for this service.

- For Option 2 it is the nearest remaining library for Middleton Cheney Library, which currently has 1 HLS Vol, who may transfer to this library, (source: Library data).
- For Option 3 Brackley's nearest remaining library, Towcester Library, currently has 2 volunteers for this service (source: Library data).

Alternative Universal Children's Centre Provision

- Brackley delivered 181 activities for 0to4s and their parents and carers last year with 1,601 attendances by children aged 0to4 and overall a total of 2,990 attendances, an average of 17 per activity (Source: Library data). Included activities: Breastfeeding support drop-ins (Thursday 1000-1200).
- If Middleton Cheney Library is closed (option 2) then attendances could potentially increase by 22%, an additional 4, to 21 per session.
- If option 3 is selected, Brackley Library will be closed and the nearest library will be Towcester Library, 10.04 miles away.
- Based on web searches using NCC website (Service provision) and for e.g. 'Net Mums'. Within a mile of Brackley there are:

0-5 Provision

Groups, Clubs And Activities	Musical Minis (Brackley)
Groups, Clubs And Activities	Mighty Atoms at Brackley Leisure Centre
Groups, Clubs And Activities	Special Needs Umbrella Group S.N.U.G - Brackley
Groups, Clubs And Activities	Croughton Parent and Toddler Group
Childminder	20 x Registered
Pre-School Playgroup	Syresham Pre-School
Pre-School Playgroup	Radstone Brackley Pre-School
Pre-School Playgroup	Croughton Pre-School
Pre-School Playgroup	Little Fishes Pre-School (Brackley)
Pre-School Playgroup	Stepping Stones Pre-School (Brackley)
Pre-School Playgroup	Little Oaks Pre-School
Pre-School Playgroup	Helmdon Acorns Pre-School
Parent and Toddler Group	Little Oaks Tots
Parent and Toddler Group	Noah's Ark Parent and Toddler Group at Brackley

Parent and Toddler Group	Tadpoles Parent and Toddler Group
Out of School Care	Stepping Stones Pre-School Brackley
Out of School Care	Southfield Nursery Lunch Club
Out of School Care	Southfield After School Club
Training And Courses	Sing And Sign
Holiday Scheme	Stepping Stones Pre-School Brackley
Groups, Clubs And Activities	Scrum Kids
Parent and Toddler Group	Stay and Play for under 3s @ Radstone Brackley
Parent and Toddler Group	Noah's Ark
Parent and Toddler Group	Syresham Baby and Toddler Group

Groups/sessions/activities run for groups with protected characteristics

- Delivered 140 activities for 5-10's last year with 1,477 attendances, an average of 10.55 per activity (source: Library data).
- Delivered 293 activities targeted at adults last year with 2,917 attendances, an average of 9.96 per activity (source: Library data).

Activities By Target Audience	Adult Target Audiences	Total Activities targeted at Adults	Total Attendance at Activities targeted at Adults
Brackley	Adult Learners	27	183
	Elders (65 And Over)	54	539
	Families All Ages	9	184
	Job Seekers / Unemployed	26	125
	Library Visitors / Local Community	176	1881
	People With Disabilities	1	5
Brackley Total		293	2917

Do you need to undertake further work (e.g. consultation, further equality analysis) based on the impact and actions identified above? If yes, set this out below and then carry out the work and complete Part 2

There is a proposed county-wide reduction in provision and a formal consultation is being undertaken which ends 13th January 2018.

This EqlA will be updated with the findings of the consultation to understand the impact of the different proposals. The updated EqlA and consultation feedback will be analysed and considered to inform the final decision that will be made in February 2018 as part of the budget setting process for 2018/19.

PART 2 – if required

Consultation, follow up data and information gathered from actions identified above

To provide a broader profile in addition to the library consultation feedback below, 2011 Census data by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) from Northamptonshire Analysis has been included. LSOAs were matched to library based on name and the data aggregated. While libraries do not have a catchment area as such, this gives a reasonable indication as to who might access each library, based on location.

Protected characteristics – Census and LSOA		Brackley Library
Gender	Female	50.25%
	Male	49.75%
Gender Reassignment	Not available	Not available
Age	0 to 4	6.16%
	5 to 19	19.73%
	20 to 64	60.23%
	65 and over	13.88%
Disability	Disabled	13.02%
	Not disabled / blank / prefer not to state	86.98%
Race & Ethnicity	Asian or Asian British	0.91%
	Black or Black British	0.29%
	Mixed	1.07%
	White	97.63%
	Blank / prefer not to say/ other	0.10%
Sexual Orientation	Not available	Not available
Religion Or Belief	Blank / Prefer not to state/ no religion	33.98%
	Christian	65.06%
	Other religion	0.72%
Pregnancy And Maternity	Not available	Not available

Respondents to the questionnaire were asked if they were prepared to provide equalities monitoring data. While this is useful to help us understand the range of people who responded in this way, this data relates to respondents to the questionnaire only and those who chose to answer demographic information about themselves. As such, this only provides part of the picture around impact on people with protected characteristics, and so the quantitative data is supported by the qualitative comments that respondents to the questionnaire provided along with all other feedback received (see below).

Some respondents to the questionnaire who stated that they use Brackley Library also stated that they used other Northamptonshire libraries. The top 5 other libraries for respondents who said they used Brackley Library are shown here:

Top five other Libraries used by Respondents who stated that they use Brackley Library	% of respondents
Middleton Cheney	7.98%
Towcester	5.49%
Northampton Central	2.14%
Daventry	1.80%
Mobile Library	1.63%

Comments/feedback from questionnaire, letters, emails, and events feedback: In addition to quantitative data, we received a large volume of comments about how the closure or change to library service provision would affect people with protected characteristics.

Concerns were raised about the following groups:

- Sex – many respondents felt that the proposal for Brackley (option 3) would have a negative impact on women in particular, because of the groups held in the library which are predominantly (but not exclusively) used by female carers with young children.
- Age – many respondents felt that the proposal for Brackley (option 3) would have a negative impact in terms of age, for both older and younger service users.
 - For older people, there were concerns that the proposal could lead to an increase in social isolation for this group, which currently benefits from free access to library resources (including IT support), groups that are run with a particular focus on older people and the general social benefits of visiting a library and social interaction with others. In addition, this group was identified as being less likely/less able to access alternative library provision because they would be less likely to drive and more reliant upon public transport.
 - For children and young people, there were concerns about the loss of access to groups specifically for babies and toddlers, particularly as the library is a designated Children’s Centre and for older children, there were concerns about the loss of the library as a source of education, a venue for doing homework and accessing further information to support their studies (particularly for children from lower income families) and taking part in events such as the Summer Reading Challenge and the impact this would have on literacy. Many referred the new housing and new primary school being built in Brackley bringing new young, families in to the community.
 - The library was frequently identified as a safe, supportive space for both children and older people as well as other vulnerable groups, something which was not provided elsewhere in the community.
- Disability – concerns were raised that the proposal (option 3) would have a negative impact upon people with disabilities. Examples given included the fact that people with a disability, such as a sight impairment or learning difficulty, who use the library regularly would be familiar

with the layout and staff and would find it difficult to use another library (as well as the difficulties in accessing an alternative library). The positive impact of libraries on the wellbeing of people with mental health issues was also mentioned, and it was a frequently raised concern that this would suffer if access to the current library provision changed

- Race and ethnicity- whilst libraries are in their nature inclusive to all, nothing specific was mentioned, beyond the general support and safe environment the library provides to all members of the community which facilitates inclusion and community cohesion.
- Religion or belief – as for Race and Ethnicity above.
- Pregnancy and maternity – the Library is a designated Children Centre and was considered as vital for new mothers, with services such as easy access to baby groups, health visitors, advice etc. and the view that many respondents shared was that using their library either stopped them from developing post-natal depression or helped them recover from it. Many respondents mentioned the support and expertise provided to new mothers by trained staff. It was noted how libraries are welcoming to mothers and babies and how they provide free access to a range of services, meaning that income is not a barrier, for e.g. this library provided an average of 5 activities per week for under 5s from April to Dec 2017.

There is no reason to believe that the proposal would have a disproportionate impact upon people because of gender reassignment or sexual orientation.

Whilst not protected characteristics under the Equality Act, the feedback also showed that there were concerns about the impact on socio-economic exclusion:

- Concerns were raised that the potential closure of libraries in rural areas would make it harder for people to access alternative library services, because they would have further to travel. If they do not have their own transport, they are reliant upon public transport (and with the proposed removal of bus subsidies, this would have a greater impact on rural areas) which can take a long time, be infrequent and costly. Respondents considered themselves to be living in a rural area with limited transport options.
- With the majority of library services being free, concerns were raised that reduced access to library services would affect people on lower incomes, in terms of accessing things like books, the internet and computers for job searches, benefit applications etc., as well as the fact that people valued libraries as places where people can access information, newspapers etc. for free and just sit quietly without having to pay. Free access to a range of expertise and support was also frequently mentioned, for e.g. this library runs regular job clubs.

Final impact analysis (taking the findings from Part 2 into account) – including review date if required				
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex				✓
Gender Reassignment			✓	
Age		✓		
Disability				✓
Race & Ethnicity				✓
Sexual Orientation			✓	
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)				✓
Pregnancy & Maternity				✓
Human Rights			✓	
Rural isolation			✓	
Socio-economic exclusion				✓

Final impact

The final recommendation in the budget proposal is for Option 1 – the Community Management option plus an extension of the option to be consulted on with the medium sized libraries. This library is therefore now also proposed for community management. It is unsure therefore what the final impact of this proposal will be as this will largely be dependent on the eventual success of the Community Library. It will be necessary to revisit and review the impact as the community managed model evolves, especially at each decision point in the transition period. However, in this model it is likely that there will be an overall reduction in services which are predominantly accessed by older people, most notably in supporting the applications for blue badges and bus passes, and therefore this has been determined as a negative impact. There is also a recommendation that there is a full review of universal Children’s Centre Services provision, and therefore the impact of this is also unsure at this point in time. There is an acknowledgement that should the community management of this library ultimately not prove feasible and the library proceeds towards closure, the impact on all groups would be negative.