

## EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT – Closure of Ibstock Community Managed Library

### What is the proposal?

Closure of Ibstock Community Managed Library

### Background

In 2019 Ibstock Library transferred from LCC to Ibstock Community Managed Library group. Ibstock Community Managed Library Group is a CIO registered with the Charity Commission. The Library is located in a mobile classroom situated on the grounds of Ibstock Junior School (on land partially owned by LCC and partially by St Denys CoE primary school).

They indicated their intention to give notice in August 2023 and this was followed by a formal written submission of notice in September 2023.

The group laid out their reasons for notice which included: lack of volunteers and trustees, condition of the building, the relationship with the school, long term funding and low usage numbers.

Following the receipt of this notice LCC launched a registration of interest process to seek a new group to operate the library and a consultation on alternative provision in the event the library was not able to re-open.

**What change and impact is intended by the proposal?** The preferred outcome is to find another group to operate the library, however, following the registration of interest process, the panel were unable to find a viable EOI option to take forward to the next stage of submitting a business plan. Therefore, in this scenario the proposal (subject to Cabinet approval) is to close the library.

The alternative library proposals being put forward which would provide access to the full range of library service offer and seek to mitigate the impact of closing Ibstock CML are:

- provide a regular 3-weekly mobile library stop in Ibstock;
- encourage use of other nearby libraries, Coalville being the closest, which has longer opening hrs and a wider range of facilities;
- encourage use of the free digital library offer.

**What is the rationale for this proposal?** As it has not been possible to identify a new group to operate the library, closure and options for alternative service provision must be considered. This is in line with the agreed process.

The service has put forward a number of alternative service provision measures which offer ways for residents of Ibstock to access library service should they wish to do so. It is felt that based on current usage of the Ibstock CML facility that the alternative provision outlined above is appropriate and offers a range of ways for local people to continue to access library resources.

**What equalities information or data has been gathered so far?:** There is an area profile for Ibstock <https://tableau.leics.gov.uk/#/workbooks/12987/views>

**What does it show?:**

Ibstock has a population of 7,600, with a similar age demographic profile to Leicestershire average as a whole. There is a slightly higher percentage of children aged 9 and under and a slightly lower percentage of people aged 65+.

51% of households are not classed as being deprived in any dimension, 33.4% deprived in one dimension 13% in 2 dimensions and 2.5% in 3 dimensions.

96.9% of residents identify as white, higher than the Leicestershire average of 87.5% and 98.4% have English as main language, higher than the Leicestershire average of 95.2%.

Ibstock has higher level of economic activity at 63.8% than the Leicestershire average of 58.6% . 16.7% of residents have a disability, similar to the Leicestershire average of 16.6% and 90.9% provide no unpaid care, the same as the Leicestershire average. 17.6% of residents are students slightly fewer than the Leicestershire average of 19.7%. The percentage of residents with no qualifications is 20.7%, higher than the Leicestershire average of 16.7%.

The survey received 21 responses, with the following demographics:

- 2 were male, 15 were female and 4 gave no response
- Age brackets (5) 25-34 (4) 35-44 (1) 45-54 (2) 55-64 (2) 65-74 (2) 75-84
- 9 were the parent/carer of children under 17 (6) 0-4 (4) 5-10 (2) 16-17
- 2 had a long standing disability, illness or infirmity
- 17 indicated they were white
- 10 had no religion, 5 Christianity and 1 any other religion
- 13 identified as Straight/Heterosexual and 2 used another term

#### **What engagement has been undertaken so far?:**

As part of giving notice, Ibstock CMLG put public notices in local publications, posters up around Ibstock and verbally informed customers coming into the Library.

LCC publicised the consultation which ran from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December (6 weeks). This was advertised on the LCC website, the Libraries facebook page and posters were put up in Ibstock and at the nearest LCC Library (Coalville)

At the same time, a registration of interest process opened for any interested parties to come forward with their plan for running the library. This again ran from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Paper copies were made available as well as digital.

#### **What does it show?:** 21 people responded to the survey of those:

- 17 were Leicestershire Residents, 2 were Staff/Volunteers and 1 was a representative of another public sector organisation
- 9 indicated they used Ibstock Library
- Of other libraries used (4) Ashby (8) Coalville (4) Ibstock and (5) None
- 9 were aware of the digital services and of those 5 had used them
- The mobile as an alternative provision being suitable

(2) Strongly agreed (3) Tend to agree (1) Neither agree or disagree (3) Tend to disagree (11) Strongly disagree

- If the mobile Library service was given as an alternative provision 3 people indicated they were likely to use it

**Evidence documents upload (optional):****Age:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	Some parents visit the library with their children after school, due to the proximity. There could be a risk of disproportionately affecting young children and families

**Disability:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Race:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No impact anticipated</li> </ul>	No

**Sex:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Gender Reassignment:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Marriage and Civil Partnership:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Sexual Orientation:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Pregnancy and Maternity:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Religion or Belief:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Armed Forces:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Other groups: e.g., rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived, armed forced, or disadvantaged communities:**

<b>What are the benefits of the proposal for those from the following groups?</b>	<b>Is there any specific risks or concerns?</b>
No impact anticipated	No

**Action Plan:**

<b>What concerns were identified?</b>	<b>What action is planned?</b>	<b>Who is responsible for the action?</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Ibstock Library to close	Consultation completed  Phase 1 of ROI process underway.  Consideration of alternative provision if no option to continue with Library	Library Service/ Cabinet	TBC
Ability of mobile library service to be available at times/days that suit users and offer access to a range stock/services that are currently available in Ibstock library	Consultation on preferred days/times undertaken. If mobile were to be put in place as alternative provision, frequent review of stock, promotion of stock requests, etc to ensure meeting needs	Library Service	Initial consultation undertaken between Nov 23 and Dec 23.  Feedback being sought during April and May (temporary mobile stop)  Library staff to gather comments and

	Review usage of mobile stop at 6 months intervals for first year and consider timetable amendments if required		feedback if regular mobile service approved
People living in Ibstock unaware of the unaware of the Library service	Ensure information on the library service is available in the local community and promote on the website and social media	Library Service	April 2024 – March 2025

**How will the action plan and recommendations of this assessment be built into decision making and implementation of this proposal?:** The proposal for closing the library and putting in place alternative library provision will be subject to approval by Cabinet.

**How would you monitor the impact of your proposal and keep the EIA refreshed?:**

If a mobile service is provided to Ibstock this would be reviewed as part of the EIA following 12 months of operation to check effectiveness. Following this it would become part of ongoing mobile provision which is reviewed on an annual basis and any significant future changes to this would be subject to a new EIA.

**Date of completion:** 26/01/2023

Revised 6/2/23

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