

Appendix B (2)



Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

This Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will enable you to assess the **new, proposed or significantly changed** policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service** for equality and human rights implications.

Undertaking this assessment will help you to identify whether or not this policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service** may have an adverse impact on a particular community or group of people. It will ultimately ensure that as an Authority we do not discriminate and we are able to promote equality, diversity and human rights.

Before completing this form please refer to the EHRIA [guidance](#), for further information about undertaking and completing the assessment. For further advice and guidance please contact your Departmental Equalities Group or equality@leics.gov.uk

***Please note: The term 'policy' will be used throughout this assessment as shorthand for policy, practice, procedure, function or service.*

Key Details	
Name of policy being assessed:	Mountsorrel Library
Department and Section:	Communities & Wellbeing
Name of lead officer/ job title and others completing this assessment:	Nigel Thomas Head of Service Chris Housden Equalities Officer
Contact telephone numbers:	0116 3056947
Name of officer/s responsible for implementing this policy:	Nigel Thomas
Date EIA assessment started:	June 2014

Date EIA assessment completed:	September 2014 Interim Revision October 2015

Section 1: Defining the policy

Section 1: Defining the policy

You should begin this assessment by defining and outlining the scope of this policy. You should consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights, as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's Equality Strategy.

1 What is new or changed in this policy? *What has changed and why?*

1. Leicestershire County Council's (LCC) Communities and Wellbeing Service incorporates the Council's Libraries, Heritage, Arts, Archives and Adult Learning Services. LCC's Policy is determined by the statutory requirements contained in the Library & Museums Act 1964 (See paragraph 8). The Service is subject to a significant reduction in funding and as a result all related services are subject to review.
2. As a result, a package of proposals has been proposed and consulted on which are designed to meet the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) target of £800K from the Communities and Wellbeing Services Budget.
3. The proposals as they affect the Library Service in full are:
 - a) 16 major market town and shopping centre libraries funded by the County Council with a 20% reduction in opening hours
 - b) The development of an infrastructure support package which would enable local communities to run their local library in partnership with the County Council.
 - c) An online library service available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to those with access to the internet
 - d) A mobile library service that will provide a regular library service to most villages without a static library.
4. This EHRIA explores the potential Equality and Human Rights impacts on b) as they specifically affect Mountsorrel Library. The proposal outlined assumes that local communities come forward to provide the management of the library service with a support package from LCC. Should a local community not come forward LCC may have to consider a decision to close the library, or consider alternative means of service delivery if the proposed solution is insufficient to satisfy the Public

	<p>Sector Equality Duty (PSED).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. This approach changes the current method of service delivery which sees LCC fully funding a network of 52 libraries across the County. 6. Responsibility for service delivery currently lies principally with the Senior Management Team of the Communities and Wellbeing section, and then through service operational teams. This arrangement would change in that there would be a partnership formed by LCC with a local community based on the delivery of the library service. 7. The service areas are compliant with Leicestershire County Council's Equality Policy.
2	<p>Does this relate to any other policy within your department, the Council or with other partner organisations? <i>If yes, please reference the relevant policy or EHRIA. If unknown, further investigation may be required.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Any decision must bear in mind the statutory provisions of the Library & Museums Act 1964. Under the Act, public library service provision is a statutory duty for local authorities. The requirement is to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service. To comply with the Act, local authorities must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make use of it (Section 7) • Promote the service (Section 7(2)(b)) • Lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area. (section 8(3)(b)) <p>The Government superintends the work of Councils, and has a duty to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee and promote the public library service (Section 1(1)) • Take action where a local authority fails to perform its duties (Section 10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. In addition, any decisions must bear in mind the strategic objectives outlined in the Communities and Wellbeing's own service plan, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the quality of life and sense of wellbeing of Leicestershire residents by commissioning or providing a choice of community heritage, learning and cultural resources. • To contribute to the provision of relevant information and cultural resources • To combat worklessness by developing skills and training opportunities as an adult learning provider • To enhance the tourism offer of the County 10. The provision of Information and Advice under the terms of the Care

	<p>Act (to be enacted in 2015) is likely to place greater responsibilities on local authorities for these services. Libraries provide a natural conduit and local resource for this work.</p> <p>11. Any changes to Library provision must therefore satisfy the requirements of the Equalities & Human Rights Acts as well as the Public Libraries and Museums Act. As the legislative requirements have a different focus, we will be addressing the Equalities and Human Rights duties in this EHRIA document, and the National libraries legislation in a separate online <i>Community Assessment</i>. Some of the information required in the two documents will overlap. For example, transport links are important in understanding how local communities inter-relate, but also help to inform the difficulties that people with disabilities (particularly mobility related) may have in accessing alternative provisions.</p>												
3	<p>Who are the people / groups (target groups) affected and what is the intended change or outcome for them?</p> <p>12. Potentially everyone in the locality who uses the library, or may do so in the future. Educational establishments and individuals looking for volunteering opportunities may particularly be affected.</p> <p>2012/13 data on users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total number of visitors at Mountsorrel was 48,133, of which 1,443 were active borrowers, the highest figure of the 36 Community libraries. As of 31/12/2013, there were 2,259 live members, broken down in age range as follows: <table border="1" data-bbox="279 1272 638 1496"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Age band</u></th> <th><u>Number</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>454</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-17</td> <td>789</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18-49</td> <td>664</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50-64</td> <td>172</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+</td> <td>180</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two highest age groups as a percentage of total members are 5-17 (34%) and 18-49 (29%). Over half of the total is under 18. There were 1040 attendees at 50 events in the library. In addition, 129 people have attended 13 classes run by the Adult Learning Service from the library building. Mountsorrel has the 6th highest number of individual PC users out of the 36 Community Libraries. <p>13. Key protected groups (see Section 2C) for which the proposals may impact are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger people Older people People with disabilities 	<u>Age band</u>	<u>Number</u>	0-4	454	5-17	789	18-49	664	50-64	172	65+	180
<u>Age band</u>	<u>Number</u>												
0-4	454												
5-17	789												
18-49	664												
50-64	172												
65+	180												

- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race.
- Religion
- Other groups
- Community Cohesion

14. A different governance arrangement, as is being proposed may have an impact on access to a range of services. For Mountsorrel these include

Automatic Doors	Audio/Talking Books	DVDs for Hire
Books for loan	Reference books/Information services	Access to informal learning
Newspapers	Study space/Homework help	Exhibition/Display space
Home Library Service	Local Studies/Family History	Childrens area
Bookstart	Local / Tourism information	Photocopier
Scanner	Printer	Fax machine
Internet taster sessions	IT facilities	Baby Changing Facilities
Children's story tapes/CDs		

15. Mountsorrel library current opening hours are:

Monday	2pm – 5pm	
Tuesday	10am - 1pm	2pm – 5pm
Wednesday	Closed all day	
Thursday	2pm – 5pm	
Friday	2pm – 7pm	
Saturday	10am - 1pm	

Transport links

The nearest market town library is Loughborough. The distance by road is 4.9 miles. There are various bus services (126/127 Arriva bus services and X27 Paul S Winson Coaches service) which run between Mountsorrel and Loughborough approximately every 10 minutes during current library opening hours. The journey takes approximately 30 minutes. This may impact on some protected groups, e.g. young people, older people and people with disabilities.

Will this policy meet the Equality Act 2010 requirements to have due regard to the need to meet any of the following aspects? **(Please tick and explain how)**

	Yes	No	How?
Eliminate unlawful			

	discrimination, harassment and victimisation		X	
	Advance equality of opportunity between different groups	X		The Library seeks to provide free reading and audio material to groups who may not otherwise have access, such as children from low income families. Library services are also made available to people with restricted mobility, via the Home Library Service.
	Foster good relations between different groups	X		The library is open to everyone and helps to attract people from different backgrounds to the wider opportunities offered at the site and within the community.

Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Screening

Section 2: Equality and Human Rights Assessment Screening

The purpose of this section of the assessment is to help you decide if a full EHRIA is required.

If you have already identified that a full EHRIA is needed for this policy/ practice/ procedure/ function/ service, either via service planning processes or other means, then please go straight to [Section 3](#) on Page 7 of this document.

Section 2

A: Research and Consultation

		Yes	No*
5.	Have the target groups been consulted about the following?		
	a) their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;		X
	b) any potential impact of this change on them (positive and negative, intended and unintended);		X
	c) potential barriers they may face		X
6.	If the target groups have not been consulted directly have representatives been consulted or research explored (e.g. Equality Mapping)?		X
7.	Have other stakeholder groups/ secondary groups (e.g.		X

	carers of service users) been explored in term of potential unintended impacts?		
8.	*If you answered 'no' to the questions above and feel that consultation is not necessary, please use the space below to explain why.		
	Consultation will be undertaken between 5 th May and 7 th July 2014. This is an essential element of assessing local need, what the library does to meet this, and how it might be met in the future. It will take account of the needs of different groups and of access and deprivation issues. The opinions of local people are essential in collecting this data. Consultation with all stakeholders will take place when realistic proposals for the future of the library have been established in the context of the County-wide service.		

Section 2			
B: Monitoring Impact			
8.	Are there systems set up to:	Yes	No
	a) monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups;	X	
	b) enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities	X	
Note: If no to Question 8 you will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics.			
Section 2			
C: Potential Impact			
9.	Use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any of the ' protected characteristics ' may <u>potentially</u> be affected by this policy and describe any positive and negative impacts, including any barriers.		
		Yes	No
			Comments
	Age	X	Data for usage by age group is reflected above. It is evident that younger people would be disadvantaged if some of the services were discontinued, such as Homework help, Bookstart, Summer Reading Challenge, the children's area and children's audio books, and these could not be provided elsewhere.
	Disability	X	If the Home Library Service was discontinued, this would disadvantage people with poor mobility and unable to

			reach the library unaided. Travelling distances between libraries in a reduced network may reduce access for people with physical mobility difficulties or other problems with travel as a result of mental health conditions or learning difficulties. The public transport links for Mountsorrel to the nearest market town library (Loughborough) are outlined in section 1 (3) above.
	Gender Reassignment		No disadvantage identified.
	Marriage and Civil Partnership		No disadvantage identified
	Pregnancy and Maternity		The library is an information point for women in pregnancy and during maternity. Similar information may be provided elsewhere. Travelling may be difficult for women in advanced pregnancy or with babies, so the comments regarding travelling (listed under disability above), may equally apply to this group.
	Race		In common with other libraries within the network, Mountsorrel is committed to providing a culturally and racially appropriate range of reading and audio material. This must be retained in any revised provision.
	Religion or Belief		As above.
	Sex		Nothing identified.
	Sexual Orientation		See Race (above).
	Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health		The particular needs of Mountsorrel, as determined by its demographic and socio-

	<p>inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities</p>			<p>economic profile will need to be fully analysed to assess the value of the provision to its locality. Mountsorrel is one of Charnwood's four priority neighbourhoods and central Mountsorrel is in the county's top 10% of most deprived areas. There is anecdotal evidence of relatively high levels of substance abuse. Any difficulties specific to Mountsorrel identified from local knowledge or through consultation may inform the EHRIA but may be equally relevant to the Community Assessment to be prepared for Mountsorrel.</p>																
	<p>Community Cohesion</p>			<p>Many of the services provided (e.g. support for reading groups, promoting community use of the library) contribute towards the promotion of community cohesion. Mountsorrel has a relatively high level of anti social behaviour and library staff have been working in partnership with local police and the youth café to combat this.</p>																
<p>10.</p>	<p>Are the human rights of individuals <u>potentially</u> affected by this proposal? Could there be an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics? (Please tick)</p> <p>Explain why you consider that any particular article in the Human Rights Act may apply to your policy/ practice/ function or procedure and how the human rights of individuals are likely to be affected below: [NB. Include positive and negative impacts as well as barriers in benefiting from the above proposal]</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="268 1682 1465 2031"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="268 1682 743 1756"></th> <th data-bbox="743 1682 839 1756">Yes</th> <th data-bbox="839 1682 935 1756">No</th> <th data-bbox="935 1682 1465 1756">Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4" data-bbox="268 1756 1465 1906"> <p>Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1906 743 1966"> <p>Article 2: Right to life</p> </td> <td data-bbox="743 1906 839 1966"></td> <td data-bbox="839 1906 935 1966"> <p>X</p> </td> <td data-bbox="935 1906 1465 1966"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="268 1966 743 2031"> <p>Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an</p> </td> <td data-bbox="743 1966 839 2031"></td> <td data-bbox="839 1966 935 2031"> <p>X</p> </td> <td data-bbox="935 1966 1465 2031"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Yes	No	Comments	<p>Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms</p>				<p>Article 2: Right to life</p>		<p>X</p>		<p>Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an</p>		<p>X</p>	
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inhuman or degrading way			
Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour		X	
Article 5: Right to liberty and security		X	
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		X	
Article 7: No punishment without law		X	
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life	X		The library makes a significant contribution to family life as access to books in the home tends to be restricted in areas of deprivation. Promoting interest in a deprived area in this way nurtures self respect and pride in a locality that may not readily arise from elsewhere.
Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	X		Libraries are a vital source of information, particularly for marginalised groups (e.g. from minority cultures) who may not have this readily available from other sources (e.g. local retail outlets). In this sense, the service promotes the rights contained in Article 9.
Article 10: Right to freedom of expression	X		As for Article 9.
Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association		X	
Article 12: Right to marry		X	
Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against	X		The shortfalls that may occur, as identified for Articles 8 & 9, are more likely to discriminate against certain groups, e.g. BME or people from minority faiths.
Part 2: The First Protocol			
Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment		X	
Article 2: Right to education	X		The educational functions of libraries are a strong aspect of their provision, and added value comes from the Summer Reading Challenge, Bookstart, and the study / homework

				support. It is recognised that this is not part of mainstream statutory education provision, but an important enhancement
	Article 3: Right to free elections		X	
Section 2				
D: Decision				
11.	Is there evidence or any other reason to suggest that:	Yes	No	Unknown
	a) this policy could have a different effect or adverse impact on any section of the community;			
	b) any section of the community may face barriers in benefiting from the proposal			
12.	Based on the answers to the questions above, what is the likely impact of this policy? This is to be assessed in a full EHRIA.			
	No Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Positive Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Neutral Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Negative Impact or Impact Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Note: If the decision is 'Negative Impact' or 'Impact Not Known' an EHRIA Report is required.				
13.	Is an EHRIA report required?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Report

Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Report

This part of the assessment will help you to think thoroughly about the impact of this policy and to critically examine whether it is likely to have a positive or negative impact on different groups within our diverse community. It is also to identify any barriers that may detrimentally affect under-represented communities or groups, who may be disadvantaged by the way in which we carry out our business.

Using the information gathered either within the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, this EHRIA Report should be used to consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's Equality Strategy.

Section 3

A: Research and Consultation

When considering the target groups it is important to think about whether new data needs to be collected or whether there is any existing research that can be utilised.

- 15.** Based on the gaps identified either in the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, how have you now explored the following and what does this information/data tell you about each of the diverse groups?
- a) current needs and aspirations and what is important to individuals and community groups (including human rights);
 - b) likely impacts (positive and negative, intended and unintended) to individuals and community groups (including human rights);
 - c) likely barriers that individuals and community groups may face (including human rights)

1. From April to July 2014 the County Council undertook a County wide public consultation exercise about a range of proposals for libraries which if implemented, would deliver the savings outlined in the MTFs. In total the savings for Communities and Wellbeing totalled £800,000. The consultation contained the following elements:
 - Online and hard copy survey
 - Stakeholder survey
 - Local public consultation meetings
 - 4 focus groups were held with two key protected groups: younger and older people. The work of the groups centred around the total proposals outlined in section 1 (1) para 3
 - 4 community partnership workshops to enable interested people and groups to further explore the detailed proposals with regard to partnership libraries
2. The full report on the outcomes of the consultation can be viewed in the cabinet report of 19th September via the following link
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4190&Ver=4>

October 2015

Subsequent relevant Cabinet reports detail the proposed infrastructure model for emerging community groups, (19th November 2014), assessment of outline business plans (11th May 2015) and the outcomes of a second period of registration of interest and assessment of outline business plans in October 2013.

The report also requested officers to commence the development of proposals for alternative library service provision should no registration of interest or outline business case be submitted or comply with the support package offered by the County Council. The impact of a number of options against the protected groups has been completed and follows the improvement plan at the end of this report.

The October 2015 paper noted that although a registration of interest and outline business case has been submitted for Mountsorrel it had not been approved for progression. A recommendation has been made to progress with a three month period of consultation on the possible closure of the site and replacement with the mobile library service.

Demographic Analysis

3. The questionnaire included a range of demographic questions. As well as allowing for the profile of respondents to be understood it also makes it possible to understand the views of different groups. Each of the rating questions within the survey has been cross tabulated by a range of respondent groups. The full list can be seen on page 9 of Appendix B of the September cabinet report. Whilst the assessment has considered all 9 protected groups, the following groups have been focussed on as those where it is reasonable to suggest that they might be disproportionately affected by the proposals :
 - Gender
 - Age
 - Children aged 0-10
 - Children aged 11-17
 - Long term illness or disability
 - Ethnicity
 - Religion.
4. Breaking down the survey response to each individual library does not give sufficient data to enable all considerations to be informed. However it is reasonable to assume that broad indicative responses from the survey overall can be used allied with local knowledge at each individual site and the responses noted from the individual community public meetings.
5. A demographic sub-group analysis was undertaken as part of the consultation. This can be found as Appendix J of the September cabinet report. This report analyses the demographic sub-groups within the context of the questions asked as part of the survey. From this analysis the following groups can be summarised as

being most affected when considering the implementation of the proposals:

- Both genders
- People of 75 years or older
- Retired people
- People with children
- People with a disability
- Children and young people

Use and Value

6. From the analysis overall, it is fair to conclude for all libraries that the majority of users come to the library to borrow a book or hire a CD and that this is no different for this library.

7. The following library services were valued a great deal from the general survey :
 - Free Books for loan including e-books service (98%)
 - 24/7 online renewals and reservations (75%)
 - Events and activities for all ages (73%)
 - Educational resources and support for children and young people (72%)
 - Informal learning (71%)

8. The following services were thought most important from the general survey:
 - Free books including the e-lending service (95%)
 - Public Computers and public Wi-Fi (47%)
 - Educational Resources for Children and young people (34%)
 - Face to face advice (34%)
 - 24/7 online renewals and reservations (27%)
 - Events and activities for all ages (27%)

9. No stakeholder survey information was received for Mountsorrel library.

10. It is valuable to identify what is felt to be “valued a great deal “ and “most important” as consideration will need to be given to governance arrangement as part of any new partnerships that might be established following these proposals. If a local group is established to manage a library, it will be important for them to understand these views.

October 2015

A range of options for delivering alternative library service provision have been examined and these are attached as Appendix A of the Cabinet report of October 2015. The impact of these options on the protected groups are contained at the end of this report. It is

proposed that the most viable and flexible method of providing alternative access to the service and to minimise the impact on the protected groups is through the mobile library service and that this should form the focus of the recommended consultation in October 2015.

Responses to proposals

11. The detailed analysis of the responses to the questions associated with the proposals for community partnership libraries can be found in Chapter 4 of Appendix B of the September Cabinet Report, and Chapter 4 of Appendix C of the September Cabinet report.
12. The community libraries affected by these proposals are: Anstey, Barrow upon Soar, Barwell, Bottesford, Braunstone Town, Burbage, Castle Donington, Cosby, Countesthorpe, Desford, East Goscote, Enderby, Fleckney, Glenhills, Great Glen, Groby, Hathern, Ibstock, Kegworth, Kibworth, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East, Market Bosworth, Markfield, Measham, Moutsorrel, Narborough, Newbold Verdon, Quorn, Ratby, Rothley, Sapcote, Sileby, South Wigston, Stoney Stanton, and Thurmaston.
13. In broad terms, the consultation proposed that the County Council would offer a support package (including a contribution towards the infrastructure costs for an initial period of up to 5 years) if a local community organised itself to provide the staffing resource, presumed to be through volunteers.
14. Across all library responses, individuals who were more likely to agree with the proposals included those who had retired, those whose first choice library would be fully funded by the County Council, and those who were interested in running one of the 36 community libraries.
15. Individuals who were more likely to disagree with the proposals included those aged 35-54 years, those of other religion, those living in a town fringe suburb of the County, regular computer users, those who stated that they would not use an alternative library and those who were not interested in helping run one of the 36 community libraries.
16. Those respondents who were more likely to be interested a great deal or a fair amount in getting involved in running a community partnership library included; females, those aged under 35, those aged 55-74, those with no religion, and those using one of the 36 community libraries as their current library.

Impact if no community partnership came forward

October 2015

The Cabinet report of October 2015 notes that although a registration of interest and outline business case had been submitted for Mountsorrel, it has not been approved for

progression because the financial modelling did not comply with the published offer of support.

17. For respondents who said that the library they used most often was a community library, a question was asked to ascertain how easy or difficult it would be for them to access alternative library services
18. The consultation asked people which alternative libraries they would use if Mountsorrel library was unavailable. None, or Loughborough, and Rothley libraries were the most frequently cited, with other venues being non-county council libraries, Anstey, and Quorn libraries and the Mobile library.
19. Individuals who were more likely to find access to alternative library services either *very or fairly easily* included: males, those aged 55-74, those with no children, those with two or more cars, those who were retired, those living in urban areas of the County and those who were interested in helping to run a community library.
20. Individuals who were more likely to find access to alternative library services either *very or fairly difficult* included those aged 75 years and older, those with children, those with an illness or disability, those living in town fringe areas of the County, those who stated that they would not use an alternative library and those who were not interested in running a community library.
21. Common themes made in free text comments included the following which presented possible barriers faced by communities, particularly if no community partnership was able to be established and a decision to close was a possibility
 - **Increased distance to a nearest library**, associated with cost and time, not being able to walk to the local library, and general inconvenience
 - **Transport:** Specifically dealing with transport issues such as lack of access to a car, impractical or no suitable bus service
 - The nearest main library is Loughborough. The distance by road is 4.9 miles. Bus service during opening hours; Arriva bus service 126/127 from The Green run every 10-15 minutes and Winsons service X27 runs every 30 mins (Mon-Sat). Journey time is about 15-20 minutes. Many respondents in Charnwood mentioned the difficulty of parking and the congestion in Loughborough.

October 2015

A transport data report for Mounstsorrel has been undertaken. This notes that Syston library is the most accessible County Council library with a total journey time of 16 minutes by public transport. Loughborough is next with a total journey time of 26 minutes.

It is reasonable to assume that this data has an impact on the protected groups associated with younger and older people and people with a disability.

- **Access of services associated with disabilities/old age.** Respondents were concerned with disabilities and mobility issues often associated with old age and the ability to access library services independently, not just in terms of access but also being able to carry books home. In addition, this category also included those respondents who expressed concern for these groups or were worried how they would be able to access libraries in the future if they were to develop a disability or mobility issue.
- **Access of services associated with Children/young people.** Similar to the issues associated with disabilities/old age, particularly for children being able to access the library independently. Also comments about the difficulty for parents to take children to an alternative venue after school. Comment from a local day nursery which regularly visits the library.
- **Access of services associated with deprived communities.** Mention of the numbers of deprived families in Mountsorrel and the difficulty they would have if the library wasn't there for them to access, in relation to both books and IT facilities. Also the cost of getting a bus to the nearest library. Concerns over those who need to use the IT facilities for job searching and CV writing.

22. Should a community partnership library be established, then it is anticipated that the core lending service would be maintained, and the impact of these issues would be mitigated. These become more critical factors should a situation arise where there is no willingness within a community to locally manage the library or a viable partnership library cannot be established, and alternative options which may include closure may have to be considered.

23. An Online interactive dashboard has been produced and is available through the following link:

https://public.tableausoftware.com/views/LibrariesDashboardFINAL/Page1?:embed=y&:display_count=no:showVizHome=no#

This collates a community profile of each area and should be used as supplementary information in informing any decisions about the future of each local library should a community partnership not be established.

October 2015

Additional profiling has been undertaken to supplement the dashboard and is attached as Appendix C (2) of the October Cabinet report. (see section 16) This details the location of protected groups in the following areas:

Ages 0-4, 5-11, 12-17, 18-29, 30-49, 50-64, 65+.

Non-White Ethnic groups

People where day to day activities are limited and therefore mobility/disability can be assumed.

This will need to be considered when making decisions on the location of any alternative library provision following the October consultation.

The majority of the wider profiling work may not directly impact on the protected groups but is viewed to be good practice to inform future decisions.

Mountsorrel Public Meetings

24. Appendix D of the September Cabinet report details the reports from each of the public meetings held across the County. The Mountsorrel meetings took place at Mountsorrel Library on 26th June 2014 (attendance of 82) and 3rd July (attendance of 43). *Public interest in the first consultation event on 26th June was higher than the number of people that could be accommodated in the venue. Those not able to access the event were therefore signposted to an alternative date on the 3rd July, which was subsequently publicized on the website and in Mountsorrel library. The information provided covers both consultation events. It should be noted that a small number of people attended both events*

25. A summary of the most significant issues associated with this EHRIA are:

- A concern about the local capacity available to recruit and sustain volunteers in order to form a community partnership library. Although difficult to quantify, a figure of between 30-50 volunteers may be required enough to provide a core volunteer resource and a pool of volunteers to cater for illness etc.
- The impact on children and young people's education if the current library could not be sustained.
- Feelings that Mountsorrel library provides many more services than just a library and that closing it should not be considered
- Fears that the proposals will lead to closure
- Feelings that status of Mountsorrel as a priority neighborhood should be considered – and effectively should rule out closure of the library here.

26. 41 exit questionnaires were returned after the meeting. 2% of respondents tended to agree or agreed strongly that the proposals provided a reasonable way forward given the resources available. 76% tended to disagree or disagree strongly. With regard to the proposals for the community partnership libraries, 7% tended to support or strongly support the proposals with 75% tending to oppose or strongly oppose. 17% said that they would probably consider getting involved, or would like to get involved in some way in running the local library.

Perceptions of School age and Older Library users

27. As part of the consultation, the Council commissioned independent qualitative research with school age and older library users about the proposals. These two protected groups form significant demographic groups who use all libraries, and the research outcome can be used to inform decision making regarding libraries generally. The details of the report can be viewed in Appendix F of the September Cabinet Report.

28. A summary of the main points are :

- Participants felt that libraries had a broad social and economic role which impacted on educational opportunities for young people and adults, and benefitted the health and wellbeing of residents with implications at key stages of their lives.
- Accessibility to services was important for school age and older library users-both in terms of proximity and the ease of getting to a venue. School age children wanted to be able to get to a library under their own steam.
- The most important aspect of library services for both groups is access to books for borrowing.
- Knowledgeable staff was seen as important
- The social aspect of the library, for sharing common interests and meeting friends and acquaintances was seen as important for older children and older library users
- Library activities in terms of groups and classes were seen as important to both groups.

29. The impact of the proposed changes initially resulted in caution from both groups, mainly associated with the points highlighted in paragraph 28. Once more information was explored about the nature of the proposals against the financial challenges, both groups perceived some value in a library managed by a local community, dependent upon the support package that is made available.

30. Following further discussion it became clear that the existence of a 'library function' was seen as most important rather than the management arrangements for that function. This is important to consider should no community partnership come forward to run the library and should inform future decisions.

16.	Is any further research, data collection or evidence required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the policy on target groups?
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October 2015

Data on users that is outlined in Section 1 (3) has been updated as follows using the latest

data available:

The total number of visitors at Mountsorrel library in 2014-15 was 22,558, 1,354 of which were active borrowers in 2013-14. (Nb change of library management system has meant that the active borrower number is the most recent available.)

<i>Age Band</i>	<i>Number</i>
<i>0-4</i>	<i>314</i>
<i>5-17</i>	<i>977</i>
<i>18-49</i>	<i>836</i>
<i>50-64</i>	<i>250</i>
<i>65+</i>	<i>231</i>

*The two highest age groups remain unchanged
In 2014-15 there were 19 attendees at 1 event at the library.
In 2014-15 Mountsorrel had 2,267 individual PC users*

Additional profiling has been undertaken and this is attached as Appendix C (2) to the October Cabinet report.

The profiling data relates to protected groups in the following area:

- Age profiles and ethnicity groups in Mountsorrel in relation to the library*
- Numbers of people in Mountsorrel where day to day activities are limited*

The survey and consultation results together with the data already held on Library use and locality data reflecting deprivation was expected to be sufficient to enable us to understand the Equality and Human Rights impacts on Communities and protected groups. However, the Stakeholder responses have raised further issues that need to be explored, i.e.:

- a. The proposal to retain core libraries in urban sites was questioned on the grounds that towns have more alternative provisions than rural settings. An alternative would be nominating rural sites as core provision instead. Although this is a valid point, it does not present as an issue for the EHRIA as being a rural dweller is not one of the protected characteristic groups.
- b. Participants in the survey requested more information on training of volunteers.
- c. More information was requested on funding arrangements, employment status, and running costs. A number of participants felt that their commitment to involvement in the future running of services could only be made with comprehensive data available.

31. Work is in progress to provide more detail in these areas and for the findings to be reported back to cabinet in November 2014.

32. In addition, a Scrutiny Review Panel is scheduled for October 2014 to review the information outlined in c. above.

October 2015

Additional information on b. and c. above was circulated to local communities as part of an information pack available to community groups.

The Cabinet Report of October 2015 recommends a three month period of consultation that focuses around potential closure of the library and alternative service provision using the mobile library service.

Resource materials that have been consulted so far include:

Leicestershire County Council: Report to cabinet 19th September 2014. "Outcome of consultation on proposals for changes in the delivery of library services", Includes:

Appendix B: main consultation survey reports
 Appendix C: stakeholder consultation survey results
 Appendix D: reports from consultation events
 Appendix E: community partnership workshops
 Appendix F: report on qualitative results
 Appendix J: Demographic sub group analysis.

Sustaining Cultural Services (produced by Sue Charteris for Leicestershire County Council September 2013)

Optimising library location for six target groups across Leicestershire (LCC Research & Insight 2013)

Creating a Comprehensive Library Service – getting the Equality Duty right (Sue Charteris February 2014)

Leicestershire County Council; Corporate Information Service data on services provided at all 52 library locations.

Leicestershire County Council; Research & Insight data on library usage, membership and issue numbers 2013/14.

2011 Census results for Leicestershire.

Leicestershire County Council; public transport data.

Arts Council England; Community Libraries publications:

- Learning from Experience – guiding principles for local authorities
- Learning from Experience - summary briefing for local authorities

- Community Libraries – 10 case studies

October 2015

*Leicestershire County Council data on local transport. 2015.
Leicestershire County Council Additional profiling data*

When considering who is affected by this proposed policy, it is important to think about consulting with and involving a range of service users, staff or other stakeholders who may be affected as part of the proposal.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 17. | Based on the gaps identified either in the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, <u>how</u> have you further consulted with those affected on the likely impact and <u>what</u> does this consultation tell you about each of the diverse groups? |
|------------|---|

33. The potential disadvantages to protected groups identified in Section 2 (part 9) have largely been confirmed by the consultation surveys, community meetings and focus group activity. The resulting observations are carried over into part 19 (below) and will be addressed with any necessary mitigation in the Equalities Improvement Plan.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 18. | Is any further consultation required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the policy on target groups? |
|------------|---|

34. Depending on the outcome of further work suggested by the questions arising from the survey and consultation (outlined in 16 above), further consultation may be necessary.

October 2015

The Cabinet Report of October 2015 recommends a three month period of consultation around potential closure of the library and replacement service provision based on use of the mobile library service.

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| 19. | Based on any evidence and findings, use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any 'protected characteristics' are <u>likely</u> be affected by this policy. Describe any positive and negative impacts, including what barriers these individuals or groups may face. | |
| | | Comments |
| | Age | In Mountsorrel 48% of respondents to the survey were aged 25-54, 44% of respondents were aged 55-74 and 8% were aged 75-84.
The observations made in part 2 above have held through consultation. These mostly relate to services for children and young people, supporting both their educational development and their parent's efforts to ensure good educational opportunities outside of |

		<p>School and term times.</p> <p>It is also of note that a significant number of responses to the Consultation came from older age groups, reflecting a relatively high level of engagement and concern with the future of Library services from this age group.</p>
	Disability	<p>In Mountsorrel 19.2% of respondents to the survey identified themselves as having a long term illness or disability</p> <p>As above, the factors of concern with this group will need to be addressed in the revised service. The principal one being access to Library services in the event of library closure or a reduction in local provision. Consideration of transport links, the pattern of the future network, and decisions regarding the Home and Mobile library networks are all therefore material considerations for this EHRIA.</p>
	Gender Reassignment	<p>In Mountsorrel no respondent to the survey identified themselves as having a gender reassignment</p> <p>Nothing was identified in the Consultation</p>
	Marriage and Civil Partnership	<p>Nothing was identified in the consultation</p>
	Pregnancy and Maternity	<p>As an information point, Libraries may play an important role in this respect. However, this is an area where alternative sources such as doctor's surgeries would be expected to have a role. Consideration as to impact of changes to the service in respect to children would need to be borne in mind</p>
	Race	<p>In Mountsorrel 100% of respondents to the survey identified themselves as being White.</p> <p>The BME community in Mountsorrel is relatively small (3.1%), however no one from this community filled in the consultation form so no conclusions can be made on their perception of potential impact.</p> <p>. There were no counter indicators in the responses.</p>
	Religion or Belief	<p>In Mountsorrel 34.6% of respondents to the survey stated that they had no religion, 50%, Christian, 7.7% Buddhist, 3.8% Jewish and 3.8% any other religion</p> <p>The level of engagement with different religious groups was largely in line with demographics. There were no counter indicators in the responses. Little evidence was presented that suggested that people with different religions or beliefs were disproportionately affected by the proposals.</p>
	Sex	<p>In Mountsorrel, 65.4% of respondents to the survey were Female and 34.6% Male</p> <p>Women were disproportionately represented in the overall consultation. Although this is reflected in Adults & Communities services as a whole, in the case of libraries this is likely to reflect the greater role that women have in the provision of child care and the engagement that Libraries offer for young children.</p>
	Sexual Orientation	<p>In Mountsorrel 100% of respondents to the survey identified themselves as heterosexual</p> <p>Nothing of note emerged from the consultation.</p>

	<p>Other groups e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities</p>	<p>The consultation event elicited comments which linked the apprehensions around a Voluntarily run facility with Mountsorrel's demographics. Although this was not expanded upon, it is taken to mean that Mountsorrel may lack people with the appropriate professional backgrounds or experience in sufficient numbers to make such a venture sustainable. This concern is reflected in the level of disagreement with the proposals for Mountsorrel, at the consultation event given the resources available (75%).</p> <p>The comments made for Age groups above are pertinent across the board for rural isolation and deprivation in Mountsorrel which is one of Charnwood's four priority neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Concerns were raised over the difficulty of accessing services further afield if the library were to close, particularly for those on low incomes. Many village libraries are the only place to offer free internet / computer access which is vital to social mobility.</p>
	<p>Community Cohesion</p>	<p>Mountsorrel library is an important community resource for the village because of its central location and additional community meeting space. Staff have recently undertaken extra work with the local youth café in response to high levels of anti-social behaviour in the area.</p> <p>Many of the services provided by the library contribute towards the promotion of community cohesion, for example:</p> <p>Community hire of the building</p> <p>Regular adult learning classes</p> <p>Weekly surgery by mental health workers</p>
<p>20.</p>	<p>Based on any evidence and findings, use the table below to specify if any particular Articles in the Human Rights Act are <u>likely</u> apply to your policy. Are the human rights of any individuals or community groups affected by this proposal? Is there an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics?</p>	
	<p>Comments</p>	
<p>Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms</p>		
<p>Article 2: Right to life</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

	Article 5: Right to liberty and security	N/A
	Article 6: Right to a fair trial	N/A
	Article 7: No punishment without law	N/A
	Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life	As referred to in part 2, the library makes a significant contribution to family life as an estimated 1 in 5 children do not have access to a book at home.
	Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Libraries are a vital source of information, particularly for marginalised groups (e.g. from minority cultures) who may not have this readily available from other sources (e.g. local retail outlets). In this sense, the service promotes the rights contained in Article 9.
	Article 10: Right to freedom of expression	N/A
	Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association	N/A
	Article 12: Right to marry	N/A
	Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against	The shortfalls that may occur, as identified for Articles 8 & 9, are more likely to discriminate against certain groups, e.g. BME or people from minority faiths.
Part 2: The First Protocol		
	Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment	N/A
	Article 2: Right to education	The educational functions of libraries are a strong aspect of their provision, and added value comes from the Summer Reading Challenge, Bookstart, and the study / homework support. It is recognised that this is not part of mainstream statutory education provision, but an important enhancement.
	Article 3: Right to free elections	N/A
Section 3		
C: Mitigating and Assessing the Impact		
Taking into account the research, data, consultation and information you have reviewed and/or carried out as part of this EHRIA, it is now essential to assess the impact of the policy.		
21.	If you consider there to be actual or potential adverse impact or discrimination, please outline this below. State whether it is justifiable or legitimate and give reasons.	
35. The intention behind the current proposal is that current services will continue, but operated by local communities with a measure of professional support. In order to satisfy the PSED in respect of potential disadvantages outlined above, it will be necessary for the related services to either continue or be realistically available and accessible to service users elsewhere, but not necessarily in the		

same format. It will be LCC's responsibility either to ensure that the revised provision meets this need, or to identify the alternatives.

36. For Mountsorrel, the services that fall into this category are:

For children & young people

- Providing Homework space / Homework help
- Children's story tapes/CDs
- Bookstart
- Bookstart Treasure Bags
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Study support for children & young people

For people with disabilities:

- Home Library Service for those who cannot leave the home
- Audio and large print books

For unemployed and those on welfare benefits

- Free access to ICT and IT support

37. All parties involved in the running of future Library operations (whether Council run or not) will be informed of EHRIA findings and the PSED duties for each location will be clarified. For council run services the duties & responsibilities will be clear, for Community (i.e. Voluntary) run examples the exact means of discharging responsibilities will need to be established, and may vary between different models.

38. Should communities not come forward to manage local libraries, then further assessment through the EHRIA process in tandem with any issues highlighted through the interactive community dashboard should be considered in order to inform future decision making.

October 2015

In order to satisfy the PSED in respect of potential disadvantages outlined above, it will be necessary to consider further how to mitigate the impact of any reduction or change in service in relation to the services users.

A Community Group has not been successful in its application to manage the library. The Cabinet Report of October 2015 recommends a three month period of further consultation around alternative service provision based on the provision of the mobile

library service and the potential closure of the library.

N.B.

- i. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- ii. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

22.

Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

- a) include any relevant research and consultations findings which highlight the best way in which to minimise negative impact or discrimination
- b) consider what barriers you can remove, whether reasonable adjustments may be necessary, and how any unmet needs that you have identified can be addressed
- c) if you are not addressing any negative impacts (including human rights) or potential barriers identified for a particular group, please explain why

39. The following comments address points raised during the survey and consultation processes.

- If provision or support is removed, it is unlikely to be reinstated. Therefore, if community volunteers offer to run libraries, some measure of sustainability needs to be established.
- The infrastructure support package needs to be clear in order for communities to take an informed decision as to whether a proposed local partnership arrangement is viable. This would include the training of community group volunteers and/or staffing arrangements, a clear partnership agreement established, and the level of professional support available from the County Council once community partnership libraries have been established.
- Should communities not come forward then other local locations, venues, and the deployment of the mobile library service should be explored in order to ensure access to books for lending, the home library service and supporting children and young people with educational resources in an informal setting.
- E- books and the internet are changing the way that people access books. These mediums may be harnessed to address some of the

	<p>potential disadvantages identified in this EHRIA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries are increasingly being recognised as community hubs which have value for community cohesion and as a means of reducing social and rural isolation. This is particularly the case for Mountsorrel as it is set in a neighbourhood priority area and it offers additional facilities such as community room hire and ICT suite.
<p>Section 3 D: Making a decision</p>	
23.	Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Leicestershire County Council's responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity, community cohesion and human rights.
	<p>40. In the event of community libraries either continuing as an LCC provision, or being run voluntarily, the mitigating actions identified below in the Equalities Improvement Plan will be expected to be taken by the responsible body. If similar provision can be identified elsewhere that meets the same need this would be a valid means of meeting the PSED requirement.</p>
<p>Section 3 E: Monitoring, evaluation & review of your policy</p>	
24.	<p>Are there processes in place to review the findings of this EHRIA and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?</p> <p>41. In the case of a continuing provision with LCC involvement, the actions and targets outlined in the Equality Improvement Plan will be periodically reviewed for effectiveness and possible revision.</p> <p>42. If a provision is run through commissioning, the Procurement process has its own inbuilt Equality & Human Rights impact mechanism</p> <p>43. At present, it is not clear how an EHRIA relating to a community run library would be implemented and reviewed. Establishing this would be a factor to consider when arrangements are drawn up, in conjunction with Legal Services.</p>
25.	<p>How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? <i>e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems</i></p> <p>44. The decision regarding the future of Mountsorrel, together with all others in the network, will have an impact on the totality of Communities and Wellbeing's services, particularly the proposed Core provision. It will be necessary to establish clear lines of support and responsibilities, particularly what can be expected of any professional staff. The inter dependencies with other services that require clarity include the Home and</p>

Mobile Library Services.

45. As referred to earlier, if mitigation is to be met through an alternative provision (such as a service referred to in the preceding paragraph) then that service will require periodic review to assess its effectiveness.

**Section 3:
F: Equality and human rights improvement plan**

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Objective	Action	Target	Officer Responsible	By when
<p>Protect the interests of disabled people in future library provision</p>	<p><u>October 2015</u></p> <p><i>Implement consultation on options for alternative library delivery based around the mobile library service and potential closure of the library</i></p> <p>Take account of accessibility and public transport provision when establishing the future pattern of the Library network.</p> <p>Take any geographical deficits into consideration when designing revised Mobile Library routes and Home Library provision.</p>	<p>Maintain and where possible improve the use of all library sites and services by people with disabilities of any kind.</p>	<p>Nigel Thomas/Derk van der Wardt/Paul Love</p>	<p>March 2016</p>

	Ensure that any organisation taking over the running of a Library is aware of the Equality Act and Disability Discrimination provisions.			
Protecting the interests of different age groups	<p><u>October 2015</u> <i>Implement consultation on options for alternative library delivery based around the mobile library service and potential closure of the library</i></p> <p>Ensure, where possible, the continued operation of current services that assist children and parents with educational goals.</p> <p>Where this is not possible, identify alternative sources of similar services or encourage their development.</p>	<p>Maintenance of current support for young people and their parents, particularly those in deprived areas.</p> <p>Maintain engagement with services by people of all age ranges.</p>	Nigel Thomas/Derk van der Wardt/Paul Love	March 2016
Protect the interests of minority ethnic groups and all faiths	Ensure that information and materials held in libraries reflect the cultural and faith needs	Maintain engagement with services.	Nigel Thomas	March 2015

	of the locality.			
Preserve and promote community cohesion	Continue support and provision for wider groups through the network of the proposed Council funded libraries. e.g. unemployed, job seekers.		Locality Managers and local officers	Quarterly reviews
Combat the effects of social and rural isolation.	<p><u>October 2015</u> <i>Implement consultation on options for alternative library delivery based around the mobile library service and potential closure of the library</i></p> <p>Take account of geographical location of services including mobile libraries when establishing the pattern of future provision.</p> <p>Maintain and develop E-books and Internet services.</p>	<p>Prevent the development of unserved areas and inconsistent provision.</p> <p>Consult on mobile library provision</p>	Nigel Thomas	March 2016
Ensure sustainability of services to protect all	<p><u>October 2015</u> <i>Implement consultation on options for alternative</i></p>	Ensure that people continue to have access to library services who	Nigel Thomas Derk van der Wardt	March 2015

protected groups.	<p><i>library delivery based around the mobile library service and potential closure of the library</i></p> <p>Thorough assessment of expressions of interest.</p> <p>Provision of training for volunteers</p> <p>Clarity of Infrastructure support arrangements</p> <p>Clarity of continued professional support for community run sites.</p> <p>Establish clear partnership agreements</p> <p>Clarify legal arrangements</p>	<p>wish to</p> <p><u>October 2015</u> Grant funding agreements agreed and currently in use with emerging groups.</p>		<p>Currently in use with emerging groups</p>
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Community Libraries.

Appraisal of options in relation to the identified needs of Protected Groups.

Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessments have been produced for each of the 36 Leicestershire Community Libraries. As of October 2015, there are three sites for which no community group has offered a satisfactory business case. The future options must now be appraised in relation to the EHRIA findings in order to satisfy the PSED. The full EHRIsAs can be viewed here:

http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/your_council/equality_and_diversity/ehria/dept_ehria/ac_ehria/communitylibraries_ehria.htm

The chart below assesses each option in relation to those findings, listed by Protected Group. The potential closure of the library and provision of a mobile library service is suggested as representing the most viable and flexible option to undertake further consultation on. The outcomes of consultation in Braunstone Town, Mountsorrel and Narborough will be used to decide on the mitigation requirements for the individual sites, to ensure that the option chosen is adequate and configured in such a way as to minimise any identified disadvantages to each of the protected groups. The safety net of targeted outreach work exists as a potential add on for any of the options, and has therefore not been appraised separately in this chart.

The current situation regarding Community Libraries was considered at the Adults & Communities Departmental Equalities Group (DEG) on 8th September 2015, when EHRIA updates and the template for this appraisal were presented. The DEG did not ask for any amendments.

Option	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Pregnancy & Maternity	Race
<p>1. Community Library Book Collection</p>	<p>Restricted range of material may not reflect needs of varied age groups.</p> <p>Reduced scope for assisting children and parents with their educational goals.</p> <p>However, this option does have the potential for making IT available via Laptops where it is not available elsewhere in the community.</p> <p>The restricted opening hours may disadvantage some groups due to school times/ work patterns.</p>	<p>Accessibility in designated community venues may present a barrier.</p> <p>May have the scope to cover any geographical deficits caused by closure of specific community libraries.</p>	<p>This group not disproportionately affected by proposal.</p>	<p>This group not disproportionately affected by proposal.</p>	<p>Restricted range of material may not reflect cultural needs of ethnic minorities.</p>
<p>2. Trust System</p>	<p>A more limited version of the Book Collection which would not be staffed</p>	<p>Accessibility in designated community venues may present a</p>	<p>This group not disproportionately affected by proposal</p>	<p>This group not disproportionately affected by proposal</p>	<p>Restricted range of material may not reflect cultural needs of local ethnic</p>

	<p>and would have a less frequent turnover of titles. No IT offered. The combination of these factors reduces the likelihood of meeting the expectations and requirements of different age groups.</p> <p>This system has the potential to be available for reasonably long opening hours.</p>	<p>barrier.</p> <p>May have the scope to cover any geographical deficits caused by closure of specific community libraries.</p> <p>Absence of a paid library assistant reduces the provision of information and advice regarding the service. This would be a disadvantage to some disabled people, particularly those with Learning Difficulties who do not have others to assist them.</p>			<p>minorities.</p> <p>Absence of a paid library assistant reduces the provision of information and advice regarding the service. This may disadvantage people for whom English is not a first language, if the service is to rely on written signs and instructions.</p>
3. LendIT Self Service Lending Machine	As with the Trust System, this provision is not staffed. It therefore has similar drawbacks to those listed above. In addition, it is	Comments as for Age and the reservations listed above.	This group not disproportionately affected by proposal.	This group not disproportionately affected by proposal.	Comments as above.

	<p>automated and the operating instructions would need to be clearly stated and easy to follow.</p> <p>The nature of this provision may give it the scope for longer opening hours, although this could depend on location. If so, this could provide a better fit into school times/work patterns than other options listed here.</p>				
4. Mobile Library Service	<p>A mobile library has the scope to offer a greater range of stock than the alternatives listed in this document, although this is unlikely to be as wide ranging as a static library.</p> <p>It is planned to offer access to IT services.</p> <p>This service will</p>	<p>Vehicles will need to have disabled access to meet the needs of people with certain physical disabilities, and the location of stops must take the needs of people with mobility difficulties into account.</p> <p>Staff presence will be of considerable</p>	This group not disproportionately affected by proposal	This group not disproportionately affected by proposal	The mobile library stocking and request systems should be used to ensure that material reflects the cultural needs of local ethnic minorities

	<p>provide considerably more location options than all alternatives.</p> <p>Although not fixed, this type of service offers a dedicated venue that people will identify as a library service, and has the potential to offer other services and book requests.</p> <p>These features provide greater scope to meet the needs of different age groups than the other options, although reduced compared to a static library, particularly regarding opening hours.</p>	<p>benefit for anyone requiring assistance, information and advice.</p> <p>There is sufficient scope within the service to cover geographical gaps created by possible library closures. The mobile service particularly lends itself to meeting any shortfall in this respect.</p>			
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Section 4: Sign off and scrutiny

Upon completion, the Lead Officer completing this assessment is required to sign the document in the section below.

It is required that this Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is scrutinised by your [Departmental Equalities Group](#) and signed off by the Chair of the Group.

Once scrutiny and sign off has taken place, a depersonalised version of this EHRIA should be published on Leicestershire County Council's website. Please send a copy of this form to louisa.jordan@leics.gov.uk, Members Secretariat, in the Chief Executive's department for publishing.

Section 4

A: Sign Off and Scrutiny

Confirm, as appropriate, which elements of the EHRIA have been completed and are required for sign off and scrutiny.

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Screening

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Report

1st Authorised Signature (EHRIA Lead Officer): ...



Date: ...8.9.15

2nd Authorised Signature (DEG Chair): ...



Date:8.9.15.....

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