

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 FEBRUARY 2016

DRAFT COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2016/20

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to invite members of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment, as part of the consultation process, on the draft Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016/20, which is attached as Appendix A to this report. The Communities and Wellbeing Service is part of the Council's Adults and Communities Department and includes a range of cultural, educational, and support services.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

- 2 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014/15-2017/18 approved by the County Council on 19 February 2014 included the following service reductions for the Communities and Wellbeing Service:
 - (a) Reduction in funding for Community Libraries and a review of other library services;
 - (b) Redevelopment of Snibston Discovery Museum with a new offer focusing on mining and the scheduled ancient monument;
 - (c) Reduction in funding for Community Museums (in Charnwood, Melton, Harborough) and Donington le Heath Manor House;
 - (d) Reduction in infrastructure costs for libraries, museums and heritage.
- 3 On 19 September 2014, following consultation, the Cabinet approved remodelling of the library service based on the following elements:
 - 16 major market town and shopping centre libraries funded by the Council with a 20% reduction in opening hours;
 - A support service enabling local communities to run their local library;
 - An online library service available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to those with access to the internet;
 - A mobile library service providing a regular library service to most villages without a static library.
- 4 On 14 January 2015, the Cabinet agreed to stop providing services at Snibston which were not related to the proposed new County Council offer.
- 5 On 18 February 2015, the Council approved a further £1 million savings for the Communities and Wellbeing Service to be delivered by 2018/19.

- 6 Financial challenges outlined in the County Council's MTFS require a clear strategic direction on which to base decisions for any future delivery model for the Communities and Wellbeing Service within the budget envelope available.
- 7 On the 12 January 2016, the Cabinet approved a formal consultation exercise on the principles and model for the delivery of services. The draft Communities and Wellbeing Strategy has been developed to fulfil statutory duties, meet efficiency targets, and provide a basis for the planning, commissioning and delivery of services over this four-year period. The views of customers and stakeholders are necessary to inform the further development of the Strategy and its subsequent implementation.

Background

- 8 The Communities and Wellbeing Service (the Service) is part of the Adults and Communities Department and comprises a range of cultural, educational and support services including:
 - Libraries;
 - Museums and Heritage sites;
 - Records Office of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR);
 - Care Online;
 - Leicestershire Adult Learning Service (LALS);
 - Creative Leicestershire;
 - Creative Learning Services.
- 9 These services are delivered across a range of venues including 16 market town and shopping centre libraries, the Records Office, Museums in Charnwood (Loughborough), Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough, Bosworth Battlefield and Donington le Heath Manor House.
- 10 LALS delivers an accredited and non-accredited learning offer across over 130 community venues. Because of the funding model for LALS principally being received through the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), it is recognised that a separate strategy for this service will need to be established.

Legal and Policy Context

- 11 The provision of cultural, educational and support services are informed by a range of legislation and national standards as detailed below.

Libraries

- 12 National legislation regarding libraries and museums is outlined in the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act. The local authority is statutorily obliged to deliver a 'comprehensive and efficient' library service which it determines according to local need and analysis.

Museums

- 13 Under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act, a local authority may “provide and maintain museums and art galleries within its administrative area or elsewhere in England or Wales, and may do all such things as may be necessary or expedient for or in connection with the provision or maintenance thereof”. Although there is no statutory requirement to provide a museum, heritage or arts services, as an accredited service the Council is obliged to adhere to the professional standards set out by Arts Council England, through its nationally recognised accreditation scheme.

Adult Education

- 14 The Education Act 1996 confers a power on the local authority to provide adult education. Section 15B of the Act states that the local authority “may secure the provision for their area of full-time or part-time education suitable to the requirements of persons who have attained the age of 19, including provision for persons from other areas”. This includes a range of training and leisure provision.

Records Office of Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR)

- 15 The 1962 Local Government (Records) Act and the 1972 Local Government Act cover provision of an archive service and proper arrangements for records generated by the constituent organisations. The 1958 and 1967 Public Records Acts, the 1978 Parochial Registers and Records Measure, and the 1924 Law of Property (Amendment) Act stipulate which records need to be retained. The Human Rights Act 1998, the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 cover the rights of citizens to access the information held.

Strategic and Financial Context

- 16 The services that the Communities and Wellbeing Service provides can be mapped as making a contribution to a range of current local strategies. These include:
- (a) Leicestershire County Council Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-2019;
 - (b) Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan 2014-2018 (Leading Leicestershire: Transforming Public Services);
 - (c) Leicestershire Communities Strategy 2014;
 - (d) Better Care Together Five Year Strategic Plan 2014-2019;
 - (e) The Adult Social Care (draft) Strategy ‘Promoting Independence, Supporting Communities’ 2016-2020;
 - (f) Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Leicestershire 2013-16.
- 17 The outcomes of this contribution can be summarised as:
- (a) Contributing to Leicestershire’s cultural environment;
 - (b) Promoting local tourism;
 - (c) Investing in people through supporting employment and skills;
 - (d) Building the resilience and capacity of communities to support themselves and vulnerable individuals and families, reducing demand on public services;

- (e) Supporting communities groups to take over relevant services and to work alongside the council to design and deliver services;
 - (f) Supporting initiatives to build social capital;
 - (g) Promoting and facilitating access to universal services;
 - (h) Improving access to information and advice;
 - (i) Contributing to the prevention and reduction agendas of public health and social care.
- 18 In addition, there have been a number of strategic reports published nationally which impact on the Libraries, Museums and Learning sector which have been considered when developing the draft Strategy for the service. A summary of these are attached as Appendix B of this report.
- 19 In February 2015, the Council approved a further £1 million savings target for the Communities and Wellbeing Service. This means that by 2018 the Service's budget will reduce by over 30% from its current level to approximately £3.9 million.
- 20 With this additional challenge it was recognised that in order to deliver the savings target a revised service strategy was needed: one that moved away from the direct provision of services and instead supported communities to manage their delivery and access.
- 21 Therefore, it is necessary to develop a Strategy which considers:
- (a) The volume and type of services that are delivered;
 - (b) The locations from which services can be accessed;
 - (c) Increased efficiency in the use of all available resources and new ways of generating income to support services.

Strategic Approach to Service Delivery

- 22 The approach detailed in the draft Strategy explains how it is intended that the Service will develop and enable access to leisure, heritage, learning and creative services in the future and contribute to the Council's key strategies relating to children and families, adult social care, health, economic development, digital access, tourism and skills by working in partnership with other organisations and local communities.
- 23 It is proposed that this will be achieved in the following ways:
- (a) Enabling and Supporting Communities - The Service will focus on supporting communities to design and deliver creative and learning activities. This will build on existing work which is supporting communities to manage their local libraries, independent museums and develop creative industries, which will be resilient and self-sufficient.

This means that the Service will provide support to communities to enable them to become self-sufficient and enable the co-design and co-development of future service provision. It will shift the emphasis of the service to providing less and supporting more.

- (b) Access to Services - There will be support for the provision of a limited range of services and professional expertise with a focus on the promotion and sharing of reading and literacy, access to collections and archives, learning programmes, access to IT and information resources. This may be through direct delivery by the Council, or through partnerships with other organisations.

This means that the network of Service venues will need to be reviewed and possibly reduced and the Service's virtual and digital services will be developed to increase self-service and improve choice of access.

- (c) Supporting Key Strategies in Preventing and Reducing Need - It is recognised that the Service may no longer be in a financial position to provide the current range of targeted services that have become mainstreamed into the service such as Care Online and services to people with Dementia. It will be important in the future to demonstrate evidence of the need for such targeted services, which would then be delivered in partnership with a range of stakeholders. The Service will work with partners to jointly commission targeted projects and identify alternative sources of funding.

This means the Service will work with strategic partners to identify and evidence key commissioning areas and consult with communities about the services offered. It may not be able to continue to solely deliver some targeted services.

Consultation and Engagement

- 24 A consultation is being undertaken to seek views on the content of the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy and to inform the development of plans for the Strategy's implementation.

The 12 week consultation commenced on 8 February 2016 and will run until the 2 May 2016 and focus on engaging stakeholders, partners and service users through targeted consultation activity. The consultation will be accessible via the County Council website and open to the general public through an online questionnaire. Printed copies of the questionnaire and posters will be distributed to libraries and museums and sent to Parish Councils. A copy of the questionnaire will also be available upon request.

- 25 Staff will be engaged through a series of workshops to be conducted during the consultation period.
- 26 The outcomes of the consultation will help to shape the final version of the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy and inform the resulting implementation plans.
28. The background information and survey questionnaire is attached to this report as Appendix C.

Resources Implications

29. Since April 2014 the Communities and Wellbeing Service has implemented changes to deliver £1 million of savings from a mixture of efficiencies and service reductions

associated with the areas outlined in paragraph 2 above. A further £1.9 million of savings will need to be delivered by 2018/19.

30. The Communities and Wellbeing Service's net budget for 2015/16 is £5.7 million. In line with the Council's MTFS this is expected to reduce to approximately £3.9 million per annum from 2018/19. Therefore, given the scale of these savings service delivery will have to change significantly. The Strategy will provide the basis upon which these changes will be delivered. Members will be aware of the ongoing financial challenges that lie ahead and as a result there may be further savings that may need to be achieved.
31. Funding for Leicestershire Adult Learning Service (LALS) is principally through the SFA. It is anticipated that funding from this source will reduce by circa £370,000 in 2016. A separate strategic piece of work is being undertaken to determine the future strategy for LALS. Although referenced as part of the wider Communities and Wellbeing Strategy, it is recognised that a separate strategic document for LALS will need to be developed.
32. The Director of Corporate Resources and the County Solicitor have been consulted on the content of this report.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

33. The consultation commenced on 8 February 2016 and will run to 2 May 2016. The consultation outcomes, together with the final Communities and Wellbeing Strategy will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval on 17 June 2016.

Background Papers

Report of the Cabinet to the County Council meeting, 19 February 2014 - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2017/18

<http://ow.ly/JmQUZ>

Report to the Cabinet, 5 March 2014 - Consultation on Proposals for Changes in the Delivery of Community Library Services

<http://ow.ly/JmQOC>

Report to the Cabinet, 5 March 2014 – Consultation on the Future of Snibston Discovery Museum

<http://ow.ly/WdTtL>

Report to Cabinet, 1 April 2014 – Snibston Proposed Future Offer

<http://ow.ly/WdTBo>

Report to the Cabinet, 19 September 2014 - Outcome of Consultation on Proposals for Changes in the Delivery of Library Services

<http://ow.ly/JmQGv>

Report to the Cabinet, 19 November 2014 – Future Strategy for the Delivery of Library Services

<http://ow.ly/JmQwT>

Report to the Cabinet, 14 January 2014 – Snibston

<http://ow.ly/WdTHH>

Report of the Cabinet to County Council, 18 February 2015 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015/16 – 2018/19

<http://ow.ly/SbldW>

Report to the Cabinet, 16 March 2015 – Future Strategy for the Delivery of Library Services

<http://ow.ly/WdUy6>

Report to the Cabinet, 11 May 2015 – Future Strategy for the Delivery of Library Services

<http://ow.ly/WdU1I>

Report to the Cabinet, 16 June 2015 – Future Strategy for the Delivery of Library Services

<http://ow.ly/WdU58>

Report to the Cabinet, 7 October 2015 – Future Strategy for the Delivery of Library Services

<http://ow.ly/WdU9m>

Report to the Cabinet, 12 January 2016 – Draft Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20 <http://ow.ly/YniBh>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

34. The Cabinet report dated 12 January 2016 was circulated to all members of the Council via the Members' News in Brief.

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Appendices

- Appendix A – Providing Less Supporting More. Draft Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020;
- Appendix B - National Policy Context.
- Appendix C –Background Information and Survey Questionnaire;

- Appendix D - Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment.

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equalities and Human Rights Implications

35. The EHRIA screening questionnaire is attached as Appendix D. The Equalities and Human Rights impacts of the Strategy and its subsequent implementation will be further informed by the outcomes of the consultation and necessary assessments conducted, which will be reported to the Cabinet alongside consultation findings.
36. The screening document identifies the potential needs of a number of protected groups such as young people, older people and people with disabilities. The impact of the Strategy on these groups will need to be considered should the draft Strategy progressed further together with any steps that may be required to mitigate any adverse impact.