

Name of proposal/policy	Library Provision in Towcester	Budget number (if applicable)	
Service area responsible	Public Health	Cabinet meeting date	11 th December 2018 and 14 th May 2019
Name of completing officer	Emma Gadsby/Dawn Howsam/Ben Dawson/Carl Dorney	Date EqIA created	15 th November 2018 Updated 2 nd April 2019
Approved by Director / Assistant Director	Lucy Wightman – Director Public Health	Date of approval	3 rd December 2018 and 1 st May 2019

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

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

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

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

PART 1 – 15TH NOVEMBER 2018

Description of current provision/policy and main beneficiaries/stakeholders

Northamptonshire County Council currently provides a standard public library service from Towcester Library including the provision of a range of printed and non-printed material for information and lending, access to the internet for public use and library staff to deal with enquiries. Additional services provided from the library include Universal Children's Centre provision and support for Blue Badge and Bus Pass applications.

The Library opened 3 years ago as part of a shared building with South Northants Council (SNC) and the Registrars. SNC have responsibility for the building. The Library is very visible and busy with an active Friends Group and many links with local community groups e.g. Rotary Club and Sponne School. The Library has a large Pod for hire. There are 8 disabled parking spaces shared with SNC plus free parking available in the town.

Some of the activities on offer in 2018:

- For 0 to 4s: 2x Bounce and rhyme per wk, Rhymetime, Play and learn U1s, Play and learn U5s, Breastfeeding support group by LaLecheLeague (LLL), Drop in Health Visitor clinic, Introducing solids, Baby Massage
- Other: Adult colouring Group, Coffee and Chat, First for Wellbeing, Fun French, Health Walk, Heart Beats, Historic Towcester, Job Club, Let's Get Moving, Natwest, Nordic Walking Group, Reminiscence Group, Rock Painting, Saturday Crafts, Silson Joggers, Summer Reading Challenge, TBV1 Book Group, TBV2 Book Group, U3A Science for All, U3A History, U3A Scrabble, Writers' Group, WW1 Committee.

Current opening hours:

Monday – Friday 9 – 6

Saturday 9 - 5

Description of proposal under consideration/development

In October 2017 a public consultation was held around 3 proposals for the future of Northamptonshire Libraries. Following a Judicial Review in August 2018 the decision to retain 15 libraries under NCC control and offer the other 21 to community groups to be run as independent libraries was quashed. In September 2018, the new Chief Executive of the council conducted a new review of the library service, ensuring NCC are able to deliver their statutory duty to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service, whilst achieving necessary savings for the council by identifying opportunities to work with community groups to coproduce community managed libraries where possible. Following meetings with community groups, parishes and Borough and District councils, individual proposals have been identified for each library.

It is proposed that Towcester Library remains under NCC statutory provision. A needs assessment has identified that this library serves a large population, including areas of multiple deprivation, indicating that statutory provision should continue. All libraries remaining under NCC statutory provision will be reviewed to develop the current offer, increase footfall and maximise income to ensure sustainability.

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

Data Source (include link where published) Please summarise what the data tells us – for example “X number of people use this service, X are male, Y are female etc”

Data Source (include link where published)	Protected characteristics		All libraries	Towcester Library
	<p>It is acknowledged that the Library Service Review, NCC’s Section 114 spending controls and reduced opening hours in libraries in 2018 will all have had an effect on library usage. Previous data is available in the EQIAs from October 2017 at https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/budgets-and-spending/Pages/review-of-library-services-in-northamptonshire.aspx</p> <p>The membership data is based on the records of members registered with the library and captures cards which were used in 2017/18. A membership card is only required for a few library services, for e.g. borrowing something, checking your account, renewing and requesting items. Many library services do not require membership and facilitate anonymous use as a community hub, for e.g. visiting the library for any purpose, using the computer, attending activities, reading newspapers etc. There are no administration systems in place able to capture this use on an individual basis, though numbers of visits, attendances and use of some services are available.</p> <p>For this library the above data is based on 3,624 membership records of which 2,161 are from adults aged 18 and over.</p> <p>2) In 2016, 362 adults in this Library took part in a week long visitor survey (the Adult Public library User Survey, or APLUS), where paper questionnaires are offered to all adult library visitors during the survey period.</p>	Gender	Female	All Mship: 55%
			Adult Only Mship: 56%	Adult Only Mship: 53%
			APLUS: 58%	APLUS: 55%
Male			All Mship: 43%	All Mship: 46%
		Unknown	All Mship: 2%	All Mship: 1%
Gender Reassignment			No data collected	No data collected
Age		Children 0-10	33%	32%
		Young adults 11-17	9%	9%
		Adults 18+	57%	60%
		(of which aged 60+ for Mship and 65 and over for APLUS)	All Mship: 23%	All Mship: 25%
			Adult Only Mship: 32%	Adult Only Mship: 32%
		APLUS: 34%	APLUS: 32%	
Disability		Disabled	All Mship: 3.7%	All Mship: 3.2%
			Adult Only Mship: 5.3%	Adult Only Mship: 4.2%
			APLUS: 24.9%	APLUS: 18.8%
	Not disabled/blank/ prefer not to state	All Mship: 96.3%	All Mship: 96.8%	
		Adult Only Mship: 94.7%	Adult Only Mship: 95.8%	
	APLUS: 75.1%	APLUS: 81.2%		

	Race & Ethnicity	Asian or Asian British	All Mship: 2.5%	All Mship: 0.5%	
			Adult Only Mship: 2.1%	Adult Only Mship: 0.5%	
			APLUS: 2.7%	APLUS: 0.8%	
		Black or Black British	All Mship: 2.5%	All Mship: 0.3%	
			Adult Only Mship: 2.0%	Adult Only Mship: 0.4%	
			APLUS: 2.0%	APLUS: 0.6%	
		Mixed	All Mship: 1.6%	All Mship: 0.6%	
			Adult Only Mship: 0.8%	Adult Only Mship: 0.4%	
			APLUS: 1.6%	APLUS: 0%	
		White	All Mship: 56.6%	All Mship: 58.9%	
			Adult Only Mship: 56.1%	Adult Only Mship: 55%	
			APLUS: 79.0%	APLUS: 89.8%	
	Blank/ prefer not to say/ other	All Mship: 36.8%	All Mship: 39.7%		
		Adult Only Mship: 39%	Adult Only Mship: 43.7%		
		APLUS: 14.7%	APLUS: 8.8%		
	Sexual Orientation: From APLUS only	Heterosexual/ Straight	82.2%	93.3%	
		Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual / Other	2.1%	0%	
		No response	15.7%	6.7%	
	Religion Or Belief	Blank/ Prefer not to state/ no religion	All Mship: 82.8%	All Mship: 77.2%	
			Adult Only Mship: 83.1%	Adult Only Mship: 77%	
			APLUS: 46.1%	APLUS: 47.2%	
Christian		All Mship: 14.9%	All Mship: 22.3%		
		Adult Only Mship: 14.9%	Adult Only Mship: 22.3%		

		Other religion	APLUS: 48.8 %	APLUS: 50.6%	
			All Mship: 2.4%	All Mship: 0.5%	
			Adult Only Mship: 2.1%	Adult Only Mship: 0.6%	
			APLUS: 5.1%	APLUS: 2.2%	
	Pregnancy And Maternity		No data collected	No data collected	
Details of groups/activities run for people with protected characteristics.	<p>Based on the activity data recorded for 2017/18, the Library delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 316 activities for 0 to 4s with 7,131 attendances, an average of 23 per activity • 127 activities for 5-19s with 1,927 attendances, an average of 15 per activity • 459 activities for adults with 4,047 attendances, an average of 9 per activity, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 6 activities targeting People with disabilities, with 56 attendances o 77 activities targeting IT skills, with 340 attendances o 48 activities targeting Job/Business skills, with 181 attendances o 33 activities targeting Language skills, with 111 attendances o 1 activity targeting Library Visitors / Local Community, with 500 attendances o 44 activities targeting Older people with 374 attendances 				
LSOA data	<p>This Library's postcode is in South Northamptonshire 005D LSOA which is ranked 28,053 out of 32,844 LSOAs. This is amongst the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country.</p>				

Tick the relevant box for each line ✓	Based on the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups?			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex			✓	
Gender Reassignment			✓	
Age			✓	
Disability			✓	
Race & Ethnicity			✓	
Sexual Orientation			✓	
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)			✓	
Pregnancy & Maternity			✓	
Human Rights (Please see articles in toolkit)			✓	
Other Groups (rural isolation, socio-economic exclusion etc)			✓	

Initial impact	
Explain your findings above	Actions identified to mitigate, advance equality or fill gaps in information
<p>There are no changes proposed to Towcester Library and so the impact of the review overall is assessed to be neutral for all protected characteristics.</p> <p>There is the possibility that Towcester Library will see increased footfall as a result of changes to other libraries in the area, subject to the outcome of the consultation, but it is not anticipated that this will have a negative impact, although this would be monitored.</p> <p>The EQIAs undertaken in the 2017/18 review are available to view here: https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/budgets-and-spending/Pages/review-of-library-services-in-northamptonshire.aspx</p>	<p>No mitigating actions are required, but people will have the opportunity to comment on all proposals, as part of the consultation being launched in December.</p>

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

UPDATED

The consultation on this library and the 27 others that were ready for consultation after the December Cabinet meeting runs from 12th December to 8th February, Consultation on the remaining 8 libraries runs from 23rd January to 22nd March. Each consultation lasts eight weeks and two days. The findings for all 36 libraries will be presented to Cabinet in May 2019.

PART 2 – 2ND APRIL 2019

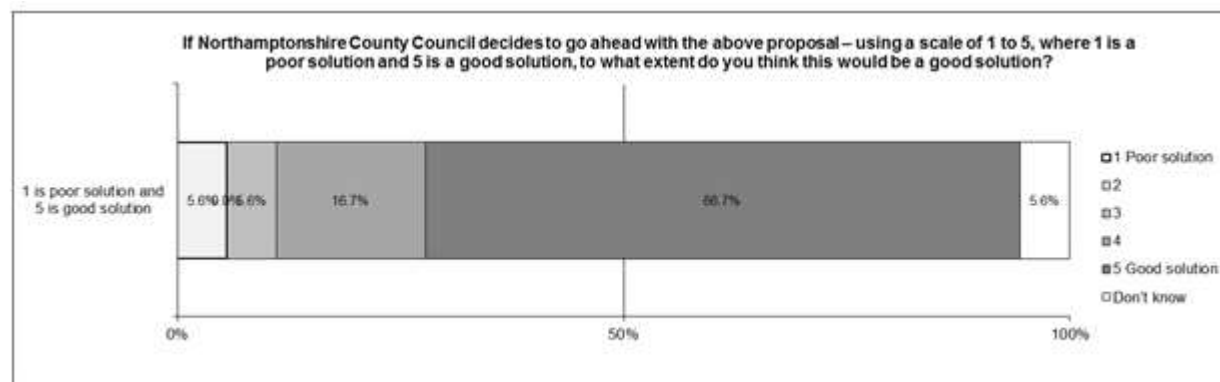
Consultation, follow up data and information gathered from actions identified above

	What does this information tell us?																												
Needs Analysis – Assessment of Impact of Proposals	Library data																												
Quantitative data from consultation questionnaire	<p>Twenty-one people chose to respond to the questionnaire in relation to Towcester Library.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Sex</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Did not answer</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No respondents said they were pregnant or had had a baby in the last six months.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>20-29 years</td> <td>Less than 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30-49 years</td> <td>Less than 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50-64 years</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65-74 years</td> <td>Less than 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75 years +</td> <td>Less than 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Did not answer</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Fewer than five respondents said that they had a disability.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Religion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>Less than 5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sex		Male	9	Female	7	Did not answer	5	Age		20-29 years	Less than 5	30-49 years	Less than 5	50-64 years	9	65-74 years	Less than 5	75 years +	Less than 5	Did not answer	5	Religion		Christian	9	None	Less than 5
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None	Less than 5																												

Prefer not to say	2
Did not answer	7

Ethnicity	
White: White British	15
Did not answer	6

Sexuality	
Heterosexual	14
Prefer not to say	1
Did not answer	6



Comments/feedback from questionnaire, letters, emails, and events

In relation to Towcester and people with protected characteristics, there were no comments made either via the questionnaires, letters or emails.

Recommended proposal

Following the consultation no changes are proposed for Towcester Library and it is proposed that Rushden Library remains managed by NCC in the current location. This library will form part of the countywide statutory provision. A needs assessment has identified that this library serves a large population, including areas of multiple deprivation, indicating that statutory provision should continue. Feedback from the consultation supported the proposal.

Tick the relevant box for each line ✓	Based on the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups?			
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
Sex			✓	
Gender Reassignment			✓	
Age			✓	
Disability			✓	
Race & Ethnicity			✓	
Sexual Orientation			✓	
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)			✓	
Pregnancy & Maternity			✓	
Human Rights (Please see articles in toolkit)			✓	
Other Groups (rural isolation, socio-economic exclusion etc)			✓	

Final impact analysis (taking the findings from Part 2 into account) – including review date if required

As there are no changes proposed to Towcester Library and consultation feedback has not raised any concerns the impact of the review overall is assessed to be neutral for all protected characteristics.