



Portfolio Holder Decision Making Session

Portfolio Holder for Business, ip&e, Culture and Commissioning (North)

27th March 2015 10am

Item

1

Public

REDESIGN OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN CHURCH STRETTON

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1. Summary

This report seeks Portfolio Holder agreement for the creation of a shared public and school library at Church Stretton School. This will involve the creation of a community hub that plays a key role in providing the information, advice and guidance that supports health and well-being, the provision of a developed Health Zone and the development of the role of Community Connectors. This will be done in a manner that complements and adds value to existing provision in Church Stretton, such as the Mayfair Community Centre. The recommendations have been informed by the discussions of the Church Stretton Asset/Services Working Group, the information contained in the listed Background Papers and the consideration of the feedback received through a 6 week period of a local Community Conversation, a 6 week period of formal consultation and focussed engagement with Protected Characteristic groups identified through the completion of the accompanying Equality & Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA).

2. Recommendations

- That a coterminous public and school library is created at Church Stretton School and Church Stretton's library service is relocated to, and delivered from this newly designed shared space
- That further work be undertaken to facilitate Shropshire Council working with the community and local partners as detailed within this report
- To delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business, ip&e, Culture and Commissioning (North) to take any further decisions relating to the delivery of the recommendation.

Reason(s) for decision:

The agreement of the above recommendations will result in –

- The opportunity to create a modern, sustainable and accessible library service in Church Stretton that reflects the council's vision for a transformed library service as described in the its successful Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) bid.
- The opportunity to maximise revenue savings for the council – the proposal to relocate the library to the school will provide a maximum return on the future revenue costs of delivering a library service in Church Stretton
- The opportunity to utilise TCA funding in 2015/2016 and contribute to the successful delivery of the wider Community Hub programme in Shropshire

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

3.1 The activity undertaken to create, develop and consult on the recommendations within this report

A summary of the activity undertaken by Shropshire Council, Church Stretton School, its local partners and the Church Stretton community, including the work of the Asset and Service Working Group and the periods of community consultation and engagement is attached as Appendix 5.

3.2 Timeline of consultation and engagement work

Activity	Date
6 week Community Conversation with accompanying FAQ document	Nov/Dec 2014
Drop-in event and presentation at Strettondale Local Joint Committee	6 th November 2014
Meeting with Church Stretton Library Support Group	15 th December 2014
6 week formal consultation period on the council's preferred option, including opportunity for alternative proposals	Feb/March 2015
ESIA created and additional engagement plan that reflects highlighted issues	February 2015
Additional engagement plan delivered	Feb/March 2015
Public meeting organised by the Library Support Group	4 th February 2015
Petition opposing the preferred option delivered triggering a debate at full Council	16 th February 2015
Petition presented at full council and debate held	26 th February 2015
Formal consultation period ends – ESIA updated and action plan created – alternative proposals received	16 th March 2015 onwards
Portfolio Holder Decision Making Session	27 th March 2015

3.3 Key themes that arose from the Community Conversation and the council's responses to these

- A community conversation on the proposal for Shropshire Council to work in partnership with Church Stretton School to provide a joint public and school library located at the school opened on 6th November 2014. The community conversation closed on 19th December for which there were 223 responses to the proposal. These responses were analysed and from this analysis 6 key themes or issues have emerged, which are summarised below.

Theme	Description	Percentage of the total responses where this theme is mentioned
1	Distance from town centre	33.26%
2	Don't want any change	26.74%
3	Car parking availability	13.70%
4	Transport options	11.96%
5	Opening hours	7.61%
6	Accessibility	6.73%

- Distance from town centre of the library if it was at the school
Concerns were raised over the location of the library if it moved to the school. These concerns focused on the school being further town centre than the current library building and the perceived difficulty for users in being able to travel to the school. To understand more about where active library users live in relation to both the current and the proposed location, the council has analysed the data relating to this. Basing this data on 1469 active users (borrowed something from the library during 2014). 65% of these users live within 2km of both the current library location and the school. Currently 49% of active borrowers live less than 1km from the library. If the library moved to the school that figure would drop to 34% and those living between 1 and 2km from their library service would increase from 16% to 31%.

A travel survey of library users has been carried out during the consultation period and the details of 102 journeys have been gathered. The full survey results are listed as Background Paper 9. In summary –

26 people use a car now and would use a car to get the relocated library
 26 people walk now and would use a car to get to the relocated library
 23 people walk now and would walk to get to the relocated library
 3 people walk now and would use the bus to get to the relocated library
 3 people use a car now and would walk to get to the relocated library
 2 people cycle now and would cycle to get to the relocated library
 1 person would walk now and would cycle to the relocated library
 1 person uses a wheelchair now and will use their mobility scooter
 15 people walk now and say that they wouldn't go to the relocated library or would have difficulty getting there
 1 person uses a car now and say that they wouldn't go to the relocated library
 1 person uses the Ring and Ride service now and say that they wouldn't go to the relocated library

Journeys to the library building	Potential journeys to Church Stretton School
102 journeys	102 potential journeys
31 people used a car	57 people would travel by car
67 people walked	25 people would walk
1 person used their wheelchair	5 people would travel by bus
2 people cycled	5 people would cycle
	17 people say they have difficulty going or wouldn't go as they don't support a relocation to the school

57 postcodes were extracted from the survey responses. 46 of these were a greater distance from the school than the library building and 11 were a shorter distance. For the people who completed the survey the average difference in journey length between their home and the library building and their home and the school is 323m one way and 646m for a return journey – this would be using roads to walk or drive. It is recognised that at the moment library users park at the central car park and walk to the library – a journey of 322m/644m. Walking from the car park to the school would increase their journey to 800m/1.6km.

Shropshire Council and Church Stretton School are jointly committed to effectively addressing this issue. The opportunities to mitigate the impact on library users of the change in location and potential greater distance to travel are shown in the ESIA Action Plan attached as Appendix 4.

- Don't want any change to the delivery of the library service in Church Stretton
Shropshire Council's budget is reducing and the way in which it delivers services is changing. We are coming to the end of the first year of a 3 year financial plan through which another £80 - £90m will be saved. The challenging demographics of Shropshire's population means that vital services such as looking after elderly people and vulnerable children have to be prioritised. Changes to all local and strategic services are unavoidable. The budget reduction for the library service of £1.3m means that the budget available for Church Stretton library will not be sufficient to deliver the service in the current way or location. This applies to all of our libraries across the county and the back office function of the service, not just Church Stretton. We are seeking local solutions to these challenges that will result in a sustainable library service that meets our statutory duties.
- Car parking availability for the library located at the school
Initially there will be ten dedicated parking bays within the school parking areas and three disabled bays at the rear of the library. However, the school is in the process of finalising developmental projects that will increase parking for library users to approximately 20/30 parking spaces by the time of the proposed relocation. A bike rack at the front of the school allows for 20 bicycles.
At present there are approximately ten parking spaces and one disabled parking space at the library building.
- Transport options to the library if it was located at the school
The transport options that would be available to travel to the school if the library should move there include a public bus service with the bus regularly stopping outside the school. It has been proposed by the school that its minibus could operate free transport between the school and the town centre for library users who would benefit from this. The recommendation within this report is for a working group, made up of library users affected by the relocation, community representatives and council and school reps will be set up to design the interventions that will enable people to travel to the library, either for regular visits or to be part of groups and organised activities. Consultation on this specific issue will continue.
- Opening hours for the library if it was based at the school
The proposal is that the library would be open for 45 hours over 6 days a week. For 5 days - 9am – 5pm, and for 1 day - 9am – 7pm, including during the school holidays. There would be lunchtime closures on weekdays.
This compares to the current opening times of 32.5 hours over 4 days a week. Monday – closed, Tuesday – 9.30am – 7.30pm, Wednesday – closed, Thursday – 9.30am – 5pm and Saturday – 9.30am – 5pm.
- Accessibility linked to safeguarding issues that would result from a shared library
Concerns were raised over the accessibility to a shared public and school library space as a result of the need to ensure pupils are appropriately supervised during the school day. Safeguarding of pupils is obviously a priority for the school. It is proposed that the library would operate in a similar way to the leisure centre with separate access for students and public. Inner doors would have to be closed when required during breaks and lunchtimes but during the day and other times students using the library would be supervised by staff. The council and the school want to work with local partners to create a redesigned space that meets the needs and aspirations of all that use the library. This will involve the creation of an

ongoing Advisory Group to ensure that members of the community are fully involved in both the design and delivery of the new library.

3.4 Equality & Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA)

The ESIIA relating to the recommendations within this report is attached as Appendix 1. This was initially written at the start of the period of formal consultation and has been updated at regular intervals following the analysis of the responses received through this and other engagement and survey work. At the start of the consultation period an initial assessment of the potential impact of the proposal was carried out for each of the Protected Characteristic Groups and for the impact on social inclusion.

Initial assessment for each group

Protected Characteristic Group/Impact	Actions to mitigate negative (-) impact or enhance positive (+) impact of the service change
Age +ve	Positive impact of a library location at Church Stretton School should be enhanced through publicity and promotion to encourage usage from families with children who may not currently be active members
Age -ve	Needs a full report following further consultation
Disability -ve	Needs a full report following further consultation
Social inclusion +ve	Positive impact of a library location at Church Stretton School should be enhanced through the opportunities for intergenerational activities and ventures that a public and school library in a shared space could offer.
Social inclusion -ve	Needs a full report following further consultation

An engagement plan was created and delivered to ensure that older people, people with disabilities and young people were either engaged with specifically on the proposal or were made aware of the consultation and how to respond to the proposal through the process. The plan and a summary of the feedback received is attached as Appendix 2.

A Part 2 ESIIA full report has been completed and an assessment made on the impact of the recommendation on the Protected Characteristic groups and other groups. The report shows that the perceived impact on the groups can be moved from high negative to medium negative through the delivery of the Action Plan. The Action Plan shows the mitigating actions that will be delivered to ensure that negative impact is mitigated and positive impact is enhanced and is attached as Appendix 3.

3.5 Outcome of the formal consultation

325 formal consultation responses were received either through hard copies left at one of several collection points in the town, or through an on-line survey. 81.85% or 266 of responses were against the proposal and 18.15% or 59 responses were in favour of the proposal. The response rate of 325 is 22% of the library's 1494 active members (Feb 2015 figures) and 5% of the library's 6388 registered members. Key themes or concerns have emerged and these are summarised below.

Shropshire Council notes the time and energy that members of the Church Stretton Library Support Group have put into the creation of its response to the Church Stretton Library consultation, attached as Appendix 7, and notes its content as part of the consultation process.

The council has responded to many of the points raised in the document through the updated Equality & Social Inclusion Impact Assessment and the associated Action Plan. A summary of key responses, clarifications and corrections are made here by the council as part of the decision report and is attached as Appendix 5.

It is the council's view that there has not been a fundamental change to the proposal it made in its consultation process – to relocate Church Stretton library to Church Stretton School to create a shared public and school library on the grounds that it is the most appropriate option to deliver a sustainable library service for the town.

It is also the council's view that sufficient evidence has been made available to enable consultation respondents to consider the proposal being made and in a couple of instances where it has not been able to provide very specific information about staffing costs or future plans for the library building, the reasons for this have been explained.

Finally, it is the council's view that sufficient evidence has been made available to enable consultation respondents to consider the proposal being made.

**Church Stretton Library Consultation
Summary of responses – key themes**

	Theme	No. of times mentioned	% of the total responses where this theme is mentioned
1	Distance from the town centre having a negative impact on accessibility	112	26.73%
2	The town centre location is valuable and should be kept	62	14.80%
3	Concerns about design, size, opening hours, disability access and general accessibility of the new library	60	14.32%
4	Concerns over safeguarding	41	9.79%
5	Concerns over the sustainability of the library at the school	35	8.35%
6	Concerns over the parking provision	31	7.40%
7	Concerns over the transport provision proposals	29	6.92%
8	Concerns over not being able to combine a visit to the library with other town centre activities leading to a reduction in usage	19	4.54%
9	Value attached to the present public library staff	17	4.05%
10	Concerns over the impact on local trade	13	3.10%
	Total	419	100%

Key themes that arose from the consultation and the council's responses to these

1. Distance from the town centre having a negative impact on accessibility
This issue has been identified as potentially having a negative impact and mitigating actions are included in the ESIIA Action Plan.
2. The town centre location is valuable and should be kept
The location of the new library service is 800m away from the town centre within a hub of facilities that service the town and to complement this a satellite library provision will be created in the town centre.
3. Concerns about design, size, opening hours, disability access and general accessibility of the new library
This issue has been identified as potentially having a negative impact and mitigating actions are included in the ESIIA Action Plan.
4. Concerns over safeguarding
Ensuring that all library users are safe is of paramount importance to everyone. Actions to ensure that this is the case are included in the ESIIA Action Plan and complement the information detailed previously in this report.
5. Concerns over the sustainability of the library at the school
A Service Level Agreement will be created between Shropshire Council and Church Stretton School to detail the future management of the joint library and this contract along with the ongoing involvement of the council's library service in the running of the new library will ensure an appropriate style of service delivery, quality of delivery and the sustainability of delivery.
6. Concerns over parking provision
The outcomes of the travel survey that the council has carried out shows that more people are more likely to drive to the library at the school than drive to the library in its current location, which indicates that there is a need for an increased number of parking spaces for library users. The school is committed to providing these. Initially there will be ten dedicated parking bays within the school parking areas to complement the existing parking spaces at the school, and three disabled bays at the rear of the library. The school is in the process of finalising developmental projects that will increase parking for library users to approximately 20/30 parking spaces by the time of the proposed relocation. A bike rack at the front of the school allows for 20 bicycles.
7. Concerns over the transport provision proposals
This issue has been identified as potentially having a negative impact and mitigating actions are included in the ESIIA Action Plan.

8. Concerns over not being able to combine a visit to the library with other town centre activities leading to a reduction in usage
The location of the new library service is 800m away from the town centre within a hub of facilities that service the town and to complement this a satellite library provision will be created in the town centre that people will be able to use as part of a town centre-only visit.
9. Value attached to the present public library staff
Shropshire Council is pleased to see that the staff working in the library currently are valued by users and are delivering an excellent service. Any members of staff at Church Stretton Library affected by the recommendations within this report will be communicated with and consulted where appropriate.
10. Concerns over the impact on local trade
The location of the new library service is 800m away from the town centre within a hub of facilities that service the town and to complement this a satellite library provision will be created in the town centre that people will be able to use as part of a town centre-only visit. If the building that currently houses the library is used for an alternative purpose in the future that could bring more people into the town centre to work and do business, which could be beneficial for local trade.

3.6 Alternative proposals

271 consultation responses included alternative proposals and the most common proposals, 260 in total, have been summarised in the following table, which shows the most common alternative proposals and the percentage of the total responses where each is mentioned.

Church Stretton Library Consultation Alternative proposals

Proposal	No. of times mentioned	% of the total responses where each alternative proposal is mentioned
Run the library as charitable trust, a Community Interest Company, or as community-run organisation	52	20%
Leave the library where it is with no change	25	9.62%
Relocate the library to another town centre location	22	8.46%
Reconfigure the library building space to keep the library service there and generate income from alternative use of the remaining space	37	14.23%
Reduce hours and reduce the service	33	12.69%
Fundraising or introduction of fees, subscriptions or charges	27	10.42%
Raise council tax	22	8.46%
Increased use of volunteers to run the library service	25	9.62%
Support for CSLSG proposal	17	6.5%
TOTAL	260	100%

Through the consultation Shropshire Council has received an alternative proposal from the Church Stretton Library Support Group (CSLSG) and a request for the council to remodel its approach to transforming library services on the approaches being taken by 2 other local authorities and this is attached as Appendix 7. The council has considered these alternative proposals and its response to these is attached as Appendix 6.

The council has considered the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats associated with the alternative proposals and looked specifically at key areas of the proposals, and compared these to its preferred option of creating a joint public and school library at Church Stretton School.

The option of creating a joint public and school library at Church Stretton offers greater opportunity for delivering an enhanced and sustainable library service in the town that fits with the council's future vision for Shropshire's library service. It also provides a greater opportunity for necessary council revenue savings and a shorter timeline

to achieving a transformed service. The potential weaknesses and threats associated with this proposal are demonstrated within this report and the ESIIA and ESIIA Action Plan and mitigating actions identified.

3.7 Risk management

Risk	Mitigation plans in place
Decision making on recommendations not made in a timely fashion, which impacts on the ability to complete the relocation in 2015 and consequently the delivery of the TCA bid programme	Advice from the council's Legal & Democratic Services has been sought to ensure the decision making process is correct and in line with the council's constitution. Attention has been paid to the creation of a Decision Report, Background Papers and Appendices that contain the relevant data and information needed by the Portfolio Holder to make his decision.
The consultation process undertaken is not deemed robust and is formally challenged	A 6 week Community Conversation, a 6 week formal consultation and additional focussed engagement work has been undertaken. The formal consultation period has enabled alternative proposals to be put forward. The feedback from this activity has been recorded, analysed and used to inform both the recommendations and the mitigating actions contained within this report. The alternative proposals put forward have been assessed by the council.
The completed ESIIA does not robustly demonstrate how it will take mitigating measures to address the possible high negative impact identified.	An ESIIA has been completed using the information gathered during the period of formal consultation. Mitigating measures to address issues of possible high negative impact have been identified and noted in both that document and this report.
Concerns around safeguarding cannot be addressed, impacting on the viability of a shared library space	Learning from other shared school/public libraries has been noted. Detailed plans for the design and use of the proposed space will be created. The council and the school will work together taking any necessary advice to ensure that the safeguarding concerns can be addressed whilst ensuring the delivery of the joint library service isn't compromised.
The delivery of the public library service is compromised by being delivered alongside a school library service in a school setting	Discussions between the council's library management and the school management are in place and will continue to ensure that each is aware of the needs and expectations of the other. A Service Level Agreement will be put in place between the council and the school to formalise the service delivery details of the public library and this will be monitored by the council's library management.
The full capital funding package required to complete the relocation and redesign works cannot be delivered	Full costs of these works not known yet as formal tendering process has not been undertaken. TCA funding of £170K ring-fenced and other potential external funding sources identified.

3.8 Any members of staff at Church Stretton Library affected by the recommendations within this report will be communicated with and consulted where appropriate.

4. Financial Implications

External funding through the Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) will provide £170k capital contribution towards the building works required at the school in order to facilitate the transfer of the library during 2015/16. Once the transfer has taken place, the full year revenue saving will be £52,200. This saving will only be achieved if the public library service is coterminous with the school library at Church Stretton School, as in this scenario no ongoing Shropshire Council revenue contribution to the library will be required.

5. Background

5.1 Shropshire Council's budget is reducing and the way in which it delivers services is changing. We are coming to the end of the first year of a 3 year financial plan through which £80 - £90m will be saved. Shropshire's current and future population demographics means that vital services such as looking after elderly people and vulnerable children have

to be prioritised. Changes to all local and strategic services are unavoidable. The Cabinet approved budget reduction for the library service of £1.3m means that the budget available for Church Stretton library will not be sufficient to deliver the service in the current way or location. This applies to all of our libraries across the county and the back office function of the service, not just Church Stretton. We are seeking local solutions to these challenges that will result in a sustainable, if altered library service that meet our statutory duties.

The council is working with partners to re-design existing face-to-face customer-focused services, including its branch libraries to provide places where residents can access services and get the information and advice that both helps them and enables them to help others within their community. This joint-working and co-creation approach is being taken across the county, and services are being redesigned to be delivered by others in flexible ways that best suit their locality and meet the individual needs of people ensuring that those who have specific needs can access services appropriately.

We want to align the future of our libraries with our commitment to locality commissioning, community asset/service transfers and to building resilient communities. If libraries stay directly under council management, then it is likely that our imperative to reduce their operational costs will result in a radical reduction in opening hours or the closure of some. We will have lost the opportunity to impact on a wider set of outcomes and it will become more challenging for us to deliver the services locally that make a difference to people's lives.

The redesigned library service will result in a range of different delivery activities including face to face provision, digital and virtual provision and an outreach programme targeted at specific groups. Alongside this change the network of library buildings will be reconfigured.

The library network will include -

- 6 strategic library hubs in major towns to improve accessibility and cater for the larger populations in the larger market towns.
- 10 local hubs/libraries offering core community services in partnership with town and parish councils, local organisations or voluntary and community groups, with a core aim of increasing opening hours.

Church Stretton library is in the latter group and since early 2014 Shropshire Council alongside key local partners in the town has been discussing and developing opportunities for new ways of delivering the services currently housed in the library building in Church Stretton. Proposals for key local organisations to deliver the Customer Service Point (CSP) and local organisations or businesses to deliver Visitor Information Services (VIS) have been agreed.

5.2 Shropshire Council's preferred option for Church Stretton's library service is that a coterminous public and school library is created at Church Stretton School and that the library service is relocated to, and delivered from this newly designed shared space. The aim is to provide a vibrant and modern library facility that meets the needs of the whole community including active users of the branch library, the wider public who may not currently use the library and students at the school.

5.3 Clarification of the council's statutory duties to deliver library services

Section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 ("the PLMA"):

Under the provisions of the PLMA, the Council, as a library authority, has a statutory duty (not a discretionary power) to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons wishing to make use of it.

The PLMA does not define what is meant by "comprehensive and efficient". However it does provide that the library authority must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons in the area that want to make use of it and lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area.

It also provides that in fulfilling the duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service, it shall in particular have regard to the desirability of:

- Providing facilities for the borrowing of, and reference to, books and other printed matter, pictures, gramophone records, films and other materials in sufficient quantity and quality to meet the general requirements and any special requirement both of adults and children; and
- encouraging adults and children to make full use of the library service, providing advice as to its use, and making available such bibliographical and other information as may be required; and
- securing co-operation between the library authority and others exercising public functions within the county.

The recommendations within this report will enable this statutory duty to be met. The recommendations do not propose the closure of the public library or a reduction in the service, they propose relocation of the public library and a model of delivery that is sustainable at a time of tremendous change in public services.

5.4 The library service in Church Stretton will reflect the vision for a transformed library service as described in Shropshire Council's TCA bid. The school is located in a natural hub of activity that also contains the primary school, the leisure centre, the Children's Centre and the pre-school nursery. There is real opportunity for the users of this hub of services – who may not be current library members - to benefit from the relocated library service proactively providing the information, advice and guidance and prevention services for mental and physical well-being for all. A Health Zone with the range of Books on Prescription and reminiscence resources will be a key part of the new library service and valued activities such as Time to Listen will continue.

5.5 Another element of the wider vision, reflected in the TCA bid, is the development of Community Connectors. Community Connectors will transcend services, organisations and sectors, but will be specific to a locality. They will be helpful, knowledgeable, friendly and interested people based in communities who know about everything that goes on in places – community and voluntary-wise and have the attitude and aptitude to match people's interests and needs with these. As part of a community's team of first line of support they will also have a knowledge and understanding of the service delivery in their locality and will have a relationship with the people delivering these services that mutually adds benefit to their work. They will be part of an early help team that could also include, amongst others, those delivering information, advice and guidance services, library staff, customer service staff, Community Enablement Officers, town/parish council officers, Community & Care Co-ordinators and volunteers. In Church Stretton the Community Connector role would work with activities across the town to link up people with services – specifically focussing on building connections between the library and other places of activity.

All of the above must be done in a manner that complements, adds value to and involves existing provision in Church Stretton, such as the Mayfair Community Centre.

5.6 The school and the library service will be jointly committed to providing and enhancing all the existing public library functions. Further to this, a joint approach will offer opportunities to develop services that will appeal to a wider range of the community than is currently served by either library. The result for Church Stretton will be a strong library service with a sustainable future.

5.7 The school and its students place high emphasis on the importance of library use, reading and writing, and follow this through in a number of ways. There are library lessons, pupil librarians on a rota throughout the week and Reading Ambassadors. World Book Day has just been celebrated at the school with story competitions, a book swap, a Scholastic book fair; and with the Reading Ambassadors visiting a local primary school to read with pupils. There is a poster in all classrooms - **DEAR - Drop Everything And Read** – to remind everyone that reading is not only about one off events, but is a habitual activity across the school both in lesson time and out of class. The school feels that their current ethos of celebrating books and reading translates itself well into a commitment to the shared library use recommended within this report.

5.8 With the support of the Voluntary & Community Sector Assembly (VCSA) and Association of Local Councils (ALC), the council has received Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) funding to redesign a number of libraries and Customer Service Points in 2015/16. Investing in this redesign must result in ongoing revenue savings for the council. The proposal to relocate Church Stretton library to Church Stretton School using £170K of capital funding from the TCA will result in annual revenue savings of £52K.

5.9 The development of the recommendations being made in this report has been informed by periods of engagement and consultation with Church Stretton residents. This includes a 6 week community conversation, a 6 week formal consultation and focussed engagement with Protected Characteristic groups that were identified through the completion of an Equality & Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA).

5.10 Shropshire Council is committed to take mitigating actions to address the concerns that have been raised by consultees in response to the proposal to relocate the library to the school, and these are detailed in this report and in an ESIIA detailed in Appendix 1.

6. Additional Information

Attached within the Background Papers and Appendices

7. Conclusions

In conclusion, given the extent of the engagement and consultation and the responses to these, and having considered all of the information, including:

- i. the responses received to the Community Conversation, the formal consultation and the focussed engagement work
- ii. the alternative proposals that have been put forward
- iii. the concerns pertaining to the proposal that have been raised and the ESIIA Part 2 Action Plan that has been created to address these

- iv. the level of financial savings and the social value to be achieved through relocating a redesigned library service to Church Stretton School
- v. the opportunity to create a redesigned library service that plays a key role in providing information, advice, guidance and early help services for mental and physical well-being for all members of the Church Stretton community – complementing the invaluable existing provision in the town,

creating a coterminous public and school library at Church Stretton School and relocating Church Stretton's library service to this newly designed shared space to create a service that is sustainable, modern and accessible is the recommended option.

This will enable the Council to achieve its ambition of keeping its branch libraries open, redesign the service to provide an important health and well-being function for all residents and assist in meeting its financial challenges.

Shropshire Council is committed to take mitigating actions to address the concerns that have been raised by consultees in response to the proposal to relocate the library to the school as detailed in the ESIIA and ESIIA Action Plan attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 3.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information):

1. Shropshire Council's Business Plan and Financial Strategy 2014 - 2017
2. Church Stretton Parish Profile
3. Shropshire Council's Transformation Challenge Award bid 2015/16
4. Summary of activity taken to create and consult on proposals for the future delivery of Church Stretton library,
5. Community conversation document on the proposal to relocate Church Stretton library to Church Stretton School – November 2014
6. Consultation document on the proposal to relocate Church Stretton library to Church Stretton School – February/March 2015
8. Frequently asked questions and answers to accompany the consultation document – updated 04/03/15
9. Plan of additional engagement work relating to the ESIIA
10. Church Stretton Library Travel Survey and analysis of the location of Church Stretton Library members

Key Decision: Yes

Included within Forward Plan: Yes

If a Key Decision and not included in the Forward Plan have the General Exception or Special Urgency Procedures been complied with: Yes / No

Name and Portfolio of Executive Member responsible for this area of responsibility:

Cllr Steve Charmley

Local Member:

Cllr Lee Chapman
Cllr David Evans

Appendices:

1. Equality & Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA) relating to the proposal to relocate Church Stretton library to Church Stretton School
2. Church Stretton Library Consultation – Engagement Plan
3. ESIIA Part 2 Action Plan
4. Summary of activity taken to create a proposal for the future delivery of Church Stretton library, upon which a decision can be made by Shropshire Council
5. Shropshire Council's response to 'Response to the Shropshire Council consultation on the proposed relocation of the Church Stretton library to the Academy on Shrewsbury Road' submitted by the Church Stretton Library Support Group
6. Shropshire Council's response to the alternative proposals submitted by the Church Stretton Library Support Group
7. 'Response to the Shropshire Council consultation on the proposed relocation of the Church Stretton library to the Academy on Shrewsbury Road' submitted by the Church Stretton Library Support Group

Declaration of Interest

- I have no interest to declare in respect of this report

Signed Date

NAME:

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR:

- I have to declare an interest in respect of this report

Signed Date

NAME:

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR:

(Note: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter.)

For the reasons set out in the report, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled

.....

Signed

Portfolio Holder for

Date

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and pro-forma is returned to Democratic Services for processing.

Additional comment :

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Note: If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Chief Executive and the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance (S151 Officer) and, if there are staffing implications the Head of Human Resources (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Portfolio Holder: Your decision will now be published and communicated to all Members of Council. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication.