Library Service Strategy to 2020: Progress Update and Next Steps

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Summer Reading Challenge 2018 at Overton Library

Service Snapshot

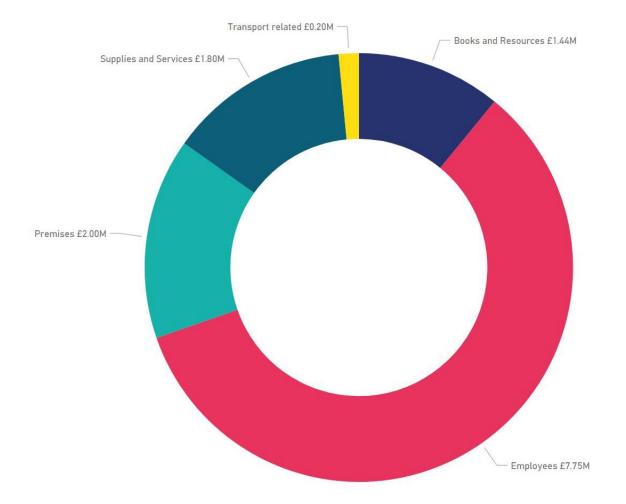
- ◆ 48 Libraries (including 3 Discovery Centres)
- ◆ 4 Community-run Libraries
- ♦ Digital Library Service
- Home Library Service
- School Library Service

Approximately 467 staff (303 full time equivalents) work for the Service, supported by 46,000 hours of volunteers

The annual revenue budget for the Library Service in 2018/19 was £10.99 million and the service generates a further £2.9 million in income



2019 Budget including T19 savings



Statutory Duty:



Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964

1964 CHAPTER 75

7. General duty of library authorities.

(1) It shall be the duty of every library authority to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service....

Progress to Date

- Four tier standardised approach
- £500,000 a year investment in Libraries (from the Development Fund)
- Commencing a review of the viability of static libraries, in conjunction with Property Services colleagues



Progress to Date (cont.)

- Increasing use of trained volunteers to support paid staff
- Develop our Library staff
- Share library buildings with partner organisations
- Phased withdrawal of poorly used Library collections





STRATEGIC AIM FOCUS READING, DIGITAL AND HEALTH AND WELLBEING



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free books for pre school children





babies joined the library at birth registration

245

26,000

Children joined the Summer Reading Challenge



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Bookstart

free books for pre school children



Code clubs

for 9-13

year olds

One to one

training

digital skills

reading group membership



Teaching robotics and 3d printing

230,000 audience for main social media accounts



1245

26,000

Children joined the Summer Reading Challenge

ebook and

emagazine loans

Council for iPad

lending scheme

£283k grant from Arts

babies joined the library at birth registration



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Health Clinics bring in

digital skills 🖥

thousand

extra visitors a year AND WELLBEING





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staff MECC trained and accredited





At the time of the 2016 strategy, it was anticipated the service would need to make savings of 14% (£1.7 million by 2020). In reality, the service will have delivered 20% (£2.45 million by April 2019)

Savings to date have largely been achieved by:



Vacancy management (linked to streamlining the way libraries are staffed)



Permanent reduction to the Development Fund budget



Savings on building costs



Increasing income through space hire

Two years into the current strategy, the majority of actions are either complete or in delivery. However, much remains to be done, so the Library Service is now looking forward towards a strategy beyond 2020 to 2025



Drivers for a 2020-2025 Strategy:

- Further significant budget reductions anticipated (and desire to increase income)
- ✤ To develop a sustainable service
- To develop a service which meets community need
- To ensure the Library Service fulfils wider HCC aims, supporting other departments with their objectives where required
- To ensure the Library Service fulfils its statutory objectives, as outlined by law



Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Culture and Communities Select Committee:

- Endorse progress made on the Library Strategy to 2020 since it was published in 2016
- ii. Set up a Task and Finish Group to develop a new Strategy to 2025, with the Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1 of the Report

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