

# EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

West Park Library (as part of the proposed Plan for Libraries)



## STAGE I: WHAT IS BEING ASSESSED AND BY WHOM?

**What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?**

### **WEST PARK LIBRARY**

West Park Library and the services that run from it are being assessed in this EIA. As part of the Plan for Libraries proposal, **West Park Library has been earmarked for closure.**

**West Park Library has 1110 active users which is 2.3% of the total active library users.**

The aims of the Pfl proposal are to deliver five universal offers (in line with Society of Chief Librarians and Libraries Taskforce). These are Reading, Information, Digital, Health and Learning. These will be delivered through our objectives:

- Our online offer is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides an online library catalogue, eBooks, audiobooks and magazines plus a range of premium online resources
- Our library buildings will be fit for purpose and include meeting spaces so we are able to offer a full range of services based around the offers of Reading and Literacy, Information and History, Digital, Health and Wellbeing and Learning. They will be clean, modern and welcoming and run by friendly and trained staff
- Our outreach offer will increase. Investment in technology will mean we are able to take the library into communities, providing a pop up library with click and collect activities and services. This will include our Home library Service for housebound users.

### **Rationale for proposed closure**

Our clearly defined 'in-library offer' means that some of our buildings may not be fit for purpose and have little or no scope for enhancement or opportunities to increase the footfall. In order to deliver a sustainable modern library service it is important that we assess our existing offer against a range of factors and comparators and have regard to an acceptable level of coverage across the city.

In respect of coverage we aligned ourselves to the four geographical areas (localities) as defined by one of our key partners Livewell Southwest.

Using existing best practice each of our libraries has been assessed against the following criteria:

- Proportion of population in ward aged 0-17
- Proportion of population in ward aged over 60
- Total transactions (book issues)
- Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score 2015. IMD is a measure to show deprivation across the country, using a variety of measures (for example barriers to housing, or local area crime), rather than just traditional poverty measures.
- Total visits
- Cost per visit
- Computer Hours used
- Total event attendance
- Suitability and sustainability of building (ability to deliver our new offer)

All criteria had an equal weighting, and each library was ranked 1 to 17 against each criteria. With 17 being the lowest value scoring. **West Park ranked number 9 out of 17 libraries.**

#### **Opening hours**

- Monday: 9am to 5pm
- Tuesday: 2pm to 5pm
- Wednesday: 9am to 5pm
- Thursday: 2pm to 5pm
- Friday: 9am to 5pm
- Saturday: 10am to 1pm
- Sunday: Closed

#### **Services and facilities**

- Computers for public use
- Free Wi-Fi
- Printer (black/white)
- Photocopier (black/white)

- Scanner
- Meeting room for hire
- Books for loan
- Audiobooks
- Request a library item – books, periodicals, plays, DVD's, Audiobooks
- Public access PC's

Anyone in training or an apprenticeship for over 10 weeks is entitled to 15% discount on fares (the 'Get On' scheme). However there is likely to be an adverse impact financially and in respect of time and convenience for other users who access public access PC's in a library proposed to close.

#### **Events**

- Job Club – Every Wednesday
- Monthly Book Group –Thursday PM
- Training Events –Ad hoc & on demand

#### **Proposed alternative venues for library outreach services in the event of library closure are:**

- Four Woods CC
- Speech and Language School
- Honicknowle Youth Centre
- St Francis church Honicknowle

**Services that can assist with consequences of proposed closures – note that there are 1110 active users.**

Public access PCs: Anyone in training or an apprenticeship for over 10 weeks is entitled to 15% discount on bus fares (the 'Get On' scheme). However there is likely to be an adverse impact financially and in respect of time and convenience for other users who access public access PC's in a library proposed to close.

Access Plymouth operate two services:

1. **Community Car Scheme** - Community Car is a not for profit car sharing scheme to help people with mobility problems get around Plymouth. Volunteer drivers, using their own vehicles, can take you to the shops hairdressers, doctors, dentist, lunch clubs, day centres, hospital visits or practically anywhere else you need to go in Plymouth. Their first pickups are at 9:00 (although this is our busiest period and can be oversubscribed) through until 4:30. Phone 01752 600633 to book. All bookings should be made no

	<p>later than one and no more than seven working days before you need to travel. You do not pay the driver as we will invoice you monthly. To use this service you need to register over the phone which takes about ten minutes. Your trips will be charged at £1.20 per mile.</p> <p><b>2. Dial a Ride</b> is a door to door transport service for anywhere within Plymouth for elderly and disabled residents.</p> <p>The service is available to Plymouth residents who are eligible for a concessionary bus pass, but struggle to access the bus service - this may be due to the distance they operate from your home, physical difficulties in boarding the bus or there is simply not a bus to where you want to go.</p> <p>The Dial A Ride provides a door to door service between any two points anywhere within the Plymouth city boundary, with dedicated drivers who can help passengers on and off the bus and to and from your front door. The service operates on Mondays to Fridays except Bank Holidays and the Christmas Period from 9-15 am until 4.15 pm and can be booked up to a week in advance, but no later than the day before you wish to travel. All bookings must be made before 2pm.</p> <p>Our buses also have a space for one wheelchair. All wheelchairs must be checked by our drivers and this needs to be done the first time you travel, so it is best to add some extra time to your first journey. Customers who travel in a wheelchair should normally travel with someone to assist them as the drivers can only take a chair as far as the front door. All assistants travel for free.</p> <p>The following fares apply to this service:</p> <p>£4 - Up to 2 miles return (2 miles there and 2 miles back)</p> <p>£6 - 2-4 miles return (2-4 miles there and 2-4 miles back)</p> <p>£9 - 4-8 miles return (4-8 miles there and 4-8 miles back)</p> <p>Any journeys over 8 miles return will be charged at £10.</p> <p>All fares are for a one way trip with the return free.</p> <p>These are alternative services for people who have difficulty accessing public transport – however this is a more expensive option than public transport</p> <p>Commitment has been made in Plan for Libraries proposal that the activities and services which currently run from the Library will be replaced by the in library offer at an alternative location, on-line offer and the outreach offer.</p> <p><b>Alternative nearest libraries:</b> Crownhill and St Budeaux</p>
<b>Author</b>	Heidi Ondrak / Karen Renshaw / Jack Harrison
<b>Department and service</b>	TCC06 (Plan for Libraries) Project Team (Transforming the Corporate Centre Programme)

<b>Date of assessment</b>	01.02.2017. Reviewed and completed on 02.05.2017.
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**STAGE 2: EVIDENCE AND IMPACT**

Protected characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and feedback)	Any adverse impact See guidance on how to make judgement	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible																
<b>Age</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Age</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">Number in Ward</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">%</th> <th style="background-color: #cccccc;">% variance with City wide average</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-15</td> <td>2852</td> <td>20.3</td> <td>+2.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16- 64</td> <td>8640</td> <td>61.6</td> <td>-3.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>64+</td> <td>2530</td> <td>18.0</td> <td>+0.6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source annual populations survey 2012. Currently people aged 60+ are entitled to a free bus pass.</p>	Age	Number in Ward	%	% variance with City wide average	0-15	2852	20.3	+2.8	16- 64	8640	61.6	-3.4	64+	2530	18.0	+0.6	<p>Potential impact on younger people is higher in the local community as there are older people than the citywide average.</p> <p>Younger people regularly report bus fares as a barrier to accessing services, however our principle of all libraries which are within a 2 mile catchment means that there is an alternative within a reasonable walking distance, as well as accessing the on line service.</p>	<p>Promote online lending of eBooks</p> <p>Library staff will provide assistance to anyone who needs help accessing the service on line</p> <p>Promote click and collect service which will be available at outreach venues</p> <p>Promote the outreach locations where library services will be delivered.</p>	A Macdonald tbc
Age	Number in Ward	%	% variance with City wide average																	
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Day to day activities	Number in Ward	%	% variance with																	

				City wide average	<p>impairments.</p> <p>According to information from Travel Time SW, transport links to the nearest library that we propose to keep open require taking one bus from the most direct stop.</p> <p>Transport links to the nearest libraries that we propose to keep open:</p> <p>St Budeaux library is 1.4 miles from West Park library. Bus routes 43 and 51 operate at regular intervals and a disabled access bus operates on both routes. The bus stop is a short two minute walk from West Park library and a one minute walk on alighting in St Budeaux</p> <p>Transport statistics reveal that despite 85% of the UK bus fleet being accessible 25% of mobility impaired passengers report experiencing difficulty using public transport. A factor may be the availability of wheelchair accessible spaces, generally only one on each bus.</p> <p>Private transport is the preferred option for the majority of mobility impaired adults (69% in 2013). The availability of parking spaces for blue badge holders in the vicinity of the alternative libraries will therefore need to be adequate to absorb the</p>	<p>libraries prior to closure</p>
	Limited a lot	1985	14.2	+4.2		
	Limited a little	1703	12.2	+1.8		
	<p>In total just over 26% of the community reported that they had a long term health condition or disability at the last Census, this is higher (+6%) than the citywide average.</p> <p>9% of the community were in receipt of Disability Living Allowance in Honicknowle ward at the time of writing.</p> <p>There are seven people who recorded their first language as British Sign Language in the last census.</p> <p>West Park Library is DDA compliant.</p>					

				displacement. The current site at St Budeaux has some limited adjacent parking and there is on street parking nearby.																		
<b>Disability</b>	<p><b>Safe Space Scheme</b></p> <p>West Park library is a member of the Safe Space Scheme. If a person with a Learning Disability with a 'I need help' card needs assistance they can show this to a member of staff in a Safe Place. They will then call their designated person or the Police, depending on the circumstances.</p> <p>Venues involved in the scheme are easily identifiable by the yellow logo displayed in their front window.</p> <p>Going to a Safe Place can be used in any situation where a person with a learning disability is feeling vulnerable. For example, if someone is being called names or if they are being bullied. Or they may have missed the bus and are feeling overwhelmed.</p>			<p>Minimal adverse impact as there are two alternative safe space locations in West park within easy walking distance of the library;</p> <p>McColl's, Crownhill Road (2 min walk) Opening times: 6:00-22:00 Mon-Sat. 7:00-22:00 Sun.</p> <p>Freemans, Crownhill road (8 min walk) Opening times: 10:00-17:00 Mon- Sat. Closed Sun.</p>																		
<b>Faith/religion or belief</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion</th> <th>Number in Ward</th> <th>%</th> <th>% variance with city wide strategy</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>7728</td> <td>55.4</td> <td>-2.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>26</td> <td>0.19</td> <td>-0.11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>20</td> <td>0.14</td> <td>-0.06</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Religion	Number in Ward	%	% variance with city wide strategy	Christian	7728	55.4	-2.7	Buddhist	26	0.19	-0.11	Hindu	20	0.14	-0.06	No impact anticipated.	N/A	N/A
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<b>Gender - including marriage, pregnancy and maternity</b>	<p>Residents are slightly more likely to be female than the citywide average (+1.7%). Men 47.7%, Women 52.3%.</p> <p>Residents are less likely to be single and never married than the city wide average (-3.6%), more likely to be divorced +2.3%) or widowed (+1.9%)</p> <p>Parents with young children do make use of the library's Rhyme Time which attracts around 6 children per session. In addition monthly book groups which attract an average of seven users is one of the more popular activities,</p>	The activities and events are attended by all genders	Promote the alternative outreach locations for the delivery of events and activities	A Macdonald tbc																								
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	Data covering gender reassignment is not available at ward level.																											



<b>Race</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnicity</th> <th>Number</th> <th>%</th> <th>% var</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White British</td> <td>13465</td> <td>96.6</td> <td>+3.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White Other</td> <td>196</td> <td>1.4</td> <td>-1.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed</td> <td>151</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>-0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian/Asian British</td> <td>77</td> <td>0.6</td> <td>-0.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black/Black British</td> <td>41</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>-0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other ethnic group</td> <td>9</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>-0.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnicity	Number	%	% var	White British	13465	96.6	+3.7	White Other	196	1.4	-1.8	Mixed	151	1.1	-0.2	Asian/Asian British	77	0.6	-0.9	Black/Black British	41	0.3	-0.4	Other ethnic group	9	0.1	-0.3	No adverse impact anticipated - The local area similar in terms of diversity to the citywide average. Apart from there is a higher than average representation of White British citizens in this community.	Consider making information available in other languages where required / requested.	A Macdonald tbc
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The second most widely spoken language is Polish (48) and South Asian (18)																																
Source: Census 2011.																																
<b>Sexual orientation - including civil partnership</b>	Data covering sexual orientation is not available at ward level.	No impact anticipated.	N/A	N/A																												

**STAGE 3: ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING? IF SO, PLEASE RECORD ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

Local priorities	Implications	Timescale and who is responsible
<b>Reduce the gap in average hourly pay between men and women by 2020.</b>	The libraries service employs 2 staff per opening hour at West Park library, no impact is anticipated on current pay levels.	N/A

<p><b>Increase the number of hate crime incidents reported and maintain good satisfaction rates in dealing with racist, disablist, homophobic, transphobic and faith, religion and belief incidents by 2020.</b></p>	<p>The library does not carry information about reporting hate crime, however this will continue to be available from Central library where fully trained staff are on hand to support.</p> <p>Residents are able to report hate crime incidents on the <a href="http://www.plymouth.gov.uk">www.plymouth.gov.uk</a> website.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Good relations between different communities (community cohesion)</b></p>	<p>The headline rate of Community Cohesion in Honicknowle Ward is 57%, this is 19% below the citywide average and 32% below the national average. The library makes a key contribution to providing an effective community space. There are local community alternatives, but there could be a temporary impact on community cohesion between the library closing and alternative community spaces being established.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Human rights Please refer to guidance</b></p>	<p>The Council is required to act in a way which is compatible with the rights granted under the European Convention of Human Rights.</p> <p>The Council also has a duty under section 7 of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a comprehensive and efficient service for all persons desiring to make use thereof.</p> <p>Due to the closure to the public of West Park library, members of the public will not be able to make use of this facility. However, due to the provision of outreach within the local area, proximity of nearby libraries and the continuing provision of both online and Home library services, there will continue to be a provision of the library service available to the community. This provision will continue to reduce the potential risk of social isolation for elderly or vulnerable members of the public.</p>	<p>Consult Legal Services.</p>

#### STAGE 4: PUBLICATION

Date 02.05.2017

Responsible Officer

Assistant Director for Customer Services