

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17: Libraries Service		Mike Brook - Library Service Manager	19 January 2016 Version 2 (Exec)
Proposal:	To close Burghfield Common Library and streamline the Mobiles service from two to one vehicle		
Total budget 15/16:	£1,525,000	Recommended officer saving 16/17:	£90,000 (5.9%)
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£90,000 (5.9%)	Final recommendation to Executive 16/17:	To proceed with this savings proposal, without any modifications.
Nos of responses:	256 responses were received, four from Town / Parish Councils, one from Willink School. One petition was received on the closure of Burghfield Library.		
Key issues raised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mortimer doesn't have the resources to meet the needs of extra customers from Burghfield • Transport to Mortimer is impractical and expensive, so many users will not switch and thus have no service • Impact on the environment of additional cars driving to Mortimer • Children in Burghfield lose any chance of independent use of a library as they will be unable to walk to the library • Burghfield is a growing community with about 400 extra homes planned; as an established rural service centre it needs more services not fewer • Closure impacts on disadvantaged and vulnerable people, including young, elderly, low paid and poorer families • Loss of such a range of services will affect many people and create further mental health difficulties for lonely elderly 		
Equality issues:	None were drawn out from the responses.		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Close and sell off Mortimer Library	There is a legal covenant requiring Mortimer to be run as a library.	
	Close Wash Common + other smallest libraries	This should be investigated and put to public consultation	
	Free transport to Mortimer	This would be a matter for Highways and Transport service to consider in its proposals to members	
Alternative options for applying the	Suggestion	Council response	

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saving in this area:	Raise Council Tax.	This would be a matter for the Council Members and Parish Councils to decide.	
	Rationalise open hours	This was begun in 2014 and could be taken further, but would not achieve the full saving	
	Investigate much cheaper library software	We continuously investigate improved deals with suppliers.	
	Co-locate library	The savings would not be achieved.	
	Purchase Mobile library at end of lease	The option to buy does not apply till end of lease, so this relates to 2017	
	Install technology to provide self service access	Technology is now available to allow some degree of self service while greatly extending access for library users and community groups. This is being investigated but would not achieve the savings required at the present time.	
Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	None received		
Officer conclusion as a result of the responses:	Most responses related to concerns about the closure of Burghfield Common branch library. Responses have noted the growing Burghfield community and that the cut will impact on the most vulnerable. Transport to Mortimer library being impractical and expensive with additional travelling adversely impacting on the environment. Mortimer will not have the capacity to receive additional custom from Burghfield. Responses have raised additional issues/impacts such as the growth in community at Burghfield and the travel issues to accessing an alternative library provision e.g. at Mortimer and that other branch libraries should be closed rather than Burghfield.		
Officer recommendation as a result of responses:	Feedback has not uncovered any issues which would prevent the council from proceeding with the proposal to reduce the mobile library service. However members may wish to revisit the options for closing Burghfield Common library, in the light of feedback received.		

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