

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Culture Leisure and Sport Decision meeting
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	23 March 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	Drayton Library
<b>Report by:</b>	Head of Cultural Services
<b>Wards affected:</b>	Drayton and Farlington and Cosham
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

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**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1** To update the Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport on the previous initiatives to deliver a static library service for the Drayton and Farlington area and provide a rationale for a library in this area. The report seeks agreement to pursue a survey and financial exploration, clarifying that a further report will be circulated to confirm next steps and seek authority from members.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1** That potential sites for locating a library in Drayton be investigated with delegated authority to the Head of AMS and Section 151 to enter into negotiations subject to approval.
- 2.2** That the rationale for locating a Library to the Drayton area is agreed based on the information provided in this report, and that a further report will be circulated to confirm the proposed next steps and seek authority from Members.

**3. Background**

- 3.1** Correspondence requesting a library in the Drayton/Farlington area began over 50 years ago, with ongoing concerns continuing to be expressed over the years regarding Drayton being the only part of the city not served by a static library service, accessible by all ages abilities and cultures and delivering a good range of opening times. The need for a Drayton and Farlington was identified in the 2006 Library Development Plan which stated:

“In discussing library buildings, it should be identified that there is no library facility available in the Drayton Farlington area of the city. This represents a large residential area with the nearest available static library being in Cosham.

Identifying a site and developing services in this area should remain a priority for the development of the library service in Portsmouth.”

Concerns became very vocal in 2007 when the opportunity to achieve the ambition of a Drayton Library seemed possible with the availability of Big Lottery funding. Despite supportive action by locals, schools and the Drayton Institute, the bid was unsuccessful. In 2011, the opening of the new library in Southsea also re-awakened calls for a Drayton Library and the need to deliver full access in what is perceived by residents to be a neglected area of the city.

- 3.2** Currently the area is served by a mobile library service delivered by Hampshire Library Service to Anchorage Park, Drayton, Havant Road and Farlington, Rectory Road. These are weekly visits each for a period of 2 hours. A very limited number of residents are able to benefit from this offer due to the requirements of busy life styles. The current daytime hours do not meet the needs of working people, children in school or those with regular weekly commitments.
- 3.3** In 2007 the Big Lottery Community Libraries fund was announced and Portsmouth Library Service worked with the Drayton Institute submitting joint bids with the aim of rebuilding the Drayton Institute with improved facilities including a public library service. Both bids failed. The Libraries bid indicated that the proximity of Cosham Library, 1.2 miles away had been a concern. The community had demonstrated their wish for a library but not a real need in the face of other proposals from elsewhere in the UK.
- 3.4** Potential sites have now been identified of sufficient size to deliver a modest size library facility to the Drayton area.

### **Business Case**

The following are the key factors identifying the business case for delivering a library in the Drayton/Farlington area of the city:

The Drayton/Farlington area is the only significant area of the city which does not offer a public library within a mile of resident’s homes.

- 27.6% of older residents living in their own homes reside in Drayton / Farlington. A high proportion of these are without independent transport. This group includes those with disabilities which restrict their ability to travel far to access library services.
- One third of the current housebound library users are situated in Drayton / Farlington. The provision of a library close to their home is likely to reduce the number unable to access a library service independently.
- A further significant group in the Drayton / Farlington area are families with relatively young children. This group also have access issues and would benefit from locally provided facilities in the area where they shop, attend school/childcare and access other community services.
- There is no adult education provision in the area and community provision is limited to the Institute and two church halls.

The Library Development Plan 2007 and the Library Review 2009, which included consultation with residents, customers and staff, identified that libraries should be situated at the heart of their community in places where people gather. This is essential to support patterns of library use which require them to be situated in accessible locations, which people visit regularly to facilitate repeat visiting. In most communities this is the shopping area. The opening of Southsea Library and Customer Service Centre, in the Palmerston Road shopping precinct of Southsea has demonstrated the success of this model.

### Financial considerations

A further report will be circulated to identify proposed costs and agree the arrangements for future action, however it should be noted that the development of a new library in Drayton would enable the current Hampshire mobile service to be cancelled with a saving of £11,500 per annum. It should be noted that this would result in a reduction in access to library services for residents of Anchorage Park and some parts of Farlington.

### 3.5 Consultation in 2007

In 2007 two separate pieces of consultation took place with the local communities to determine the views of residents and users of local services regarding a public library in the area. The survey was conducted to support the Big Lottery bid and both consultations used the same questionnaire:

1. Consultation in Drayton Havant Road shopping area and the Sainsbury's Supermarket site in Farlington February 2007
2. Consultation in the school grounds at the end of the school day at Solent Infant and Junior Schools 6 March 2007

Question	Shops consultation	School consultation
Do you live in the Drayton/Farlington area	Yes 75	Yes 283
	No 40	No 32
Are you a member of the library	Yes 69	Yes 179
	No 38	No 91
Would you use a library in Drayton	Yes 87	Yes 254
	No 28	No 57

It should be noted that both surveys demonstrate a positive inclination to use a library located in the Drayton area. A vibrant new library in Drayton is likely to draw use from other sites and for both surveys; those who were already library members approximately 50% used Cosham Library. For the shops consultation over 69% used the Family Library Link Service at its weekly stop at Sainsbury's in Farlington on at stops to schools, parent and toddler groups and nurseries. However significant numbers also came from Waterlooville and Havant with some using Hayling Island, Southbourne and Petersfield.

It should also be noted that more respondents indicated they would use Drayton than are currently library members, indicating the potential for new joiners with the provision of this new offer. This has proved to be the case with the new library in Southsea (over 2,000 individuals sought library membership in the first 6 weeks of opening) indicating that more people will use a service if it is in a place which is easily accessible and fitting in with their life styles.

### **3.6 Consultation 2012**

There will be a programme of consultation regarding:

- The range of services to be offered beyond the statutory requirement
- Additional activities and offers
- Opening times.

The consultation will take place with:

- Library users via existing libraries
- Resident engaged in shopping areas and other community buildings including the local schools
- Local traders in the shopping precinct.

### **3.7 Library Offer**

This will be determined by the above consultation process. The statutory library offer would be:

- Adult fiction book lending stock
- Adult information book stock – lending and reference combined
- Children's book collection
- Peoples network computers – including online library services.

The service would be supported by the installation of an Intellident RFID self issue kiosk, compatible with those installed across the rest of the library service. A deliveries/storage area would be required and toilet/washing facilities. These are both available on the ground floor at the rear of the building, but require some refurbishment. The nature of the required building works and refit will be identified in a subsequent report.

The service would be delivered as a flexible space with mobile shelving to accommodate activities and events to be determined by consultation but may include, reading groups, writing groups, class visits, children's activities and learning offers in cooperation with learning and information providers. The local population demographic which includes many retired but active citizens may provide opportunities for volunteering and enrichment offers in the library. The Library Service will also explore opportunities for engaging volunteers through return to work initiatives.

The proximity of the Drayton Institute would offer the opportunity for partnership project development. Local schools, Springfield Secondary and Solent Infant and Junior have also indicated their wish to be part of the development of a library offer in Drayton. Potential opportunities to work with other service organisations and traders will also be explored. Opening hours would be determined through consultation with local residents and local traders but would seek, as with the Southsea model, to deliver opening in line with the local retail offer.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1** To support the expressed need for a static library service in Drayton as identified at 3.1, 3.5 and 3.7.

#### **5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

- 5.1** A preliminary equalities impact assessment has been submitted.

#### **6. Head of Legal, Licensing & Registrars' comments**

- 6.1** Under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, the Council is under duties to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service and to *have regard to the desirability of encouraging adults and children to make full use of the library services.*

The taking of a lease out of which, alongside use for commercial purposes, it is proposed to let as residential accommodation will require careful treatment consideration: where the Council lets residential premises, secure tenancies are created by operation of law.

#### **7. Head of Finance's comments**

- 7.1** A full financial appraisal will need to be carried out and funding secured before a decision can be taken to provide a new library in Drayton.

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Signed by:  
**Stephen Baily**  
**Head of Cultural Services**

**Appendices:                      None**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Library Development Plan 2006	Central library
Big Lottery Community Libraries application 2007	Central library
Library correspondence file	Central library

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on 23 March 2012.

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Signed by:  
**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport**