

**Proposed Decision to be taken by
The Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customers
22 January 2016**

**Consultation on the Proposals to
Withdraw Sunday library opening at Rugby, Nuneaton and
Leamington libraries.**

Recommendation

That the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Customers approves the proposal for consultation as set out in the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 Over the last four years, the Library Service has delivered over two million savings and there has been a complete transformation of the Service. Actions taken have included thirteen libraries becoming Community Managed in 2012, a reduction in library opening hours and mobile library services across the county as well as a reduction in management and staffing costs. Since this time the service has constantly monitored its priorities to drive down costs and improve services whilst making efficiency savings.
- 1.2 The One Organisational Plan savings agreed by Members requires the Service to make a further £100k saving for 2016, without any further library closures.

2 Delivering the One Organisational Plan Savings

- 2.1 The savings plan below outlines how the proposed savings can be made, whilst retaining the network of libraries with minimal impact on frontline services and opening hours. The book fund has also been protected. The Library Service on Sundays is limited to the three largest libraries in the county, ie Leamington Rugby and Nuneaton Libraries.
- 2.2 Proposals for achieving £100k savings are set out below:

Item	Saving £
No Sunday opening in Rugby, Nuneaton and Leamington Libraries	54,000
Staff reduction	14,600
Reduction in administration costs and vehicle maintenance funds as the mobile fleet has been reduced	31,400
TOTAL	100,000

3 Proposals

- 3.1 To In order to meet this budget reduction, we are proposing to withdraw Sunday opening hours at Leamington, Rugby and Nuneaton Libraries from August 2016.
- 3.2 The Leamington, Rugby and Nuneaton Libraries are currently open for four hours on a Sunday. Each library would continue to be open for 50 hours a week from Monday to Saturday. Other branches across the county are not open on Sundays and would not be affected by this proposal.
- 3.3 Library Services can still be accessed online and by telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. By visiting www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries people can renew books and dvds, download E-books and E-magazines, request items and use our online information services. People can also renew items by phone 24/7 by calling 01926 499273.

The following table details the average Sunday usage of the three affected libraries

	Weekly Average 2014/15 (Sundays)		
	Visits	Issues	Attendance at Events
Leamington	306	323	8
Nuneaton	214	294	5
Rugby	328	378	4

- 3.4 The withdrawal of the Sunday library service will form the basis of a public consultation. A further consultation will also be undertaken with staff directly affected by this decision.

4 Public Engagement

- 4.1 The consultation will comprise the following three elements:

- Information Flyer (all County Council Libraries):
- WCC Web Page:
The www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries webpage will contain consultation material, including a link to the Ask Warwickshire consultation page.
- Local Consultation Events/Displays: will be held at the following libraries that are affected by the changes:

Leamington Library
Nuneaton Library
Rugby Library

- 4.2 All elements of the consultation will include a response form enabling participants to express and submit their views on the Sunday closures. This will mainly be an online questionnaire with library staff on hand to help facilitate

access to the online questionnaire. Limited paper copies will be available on request.

4.3 An equality impact assessment will also be conducted on the changes

5 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

5.1 It is anticipated that the consultation will commence on Monday, 8th February 2016. The duration of the consultation process is six weeks and it will end on Monday, 21 March 2016.

5.2 The responses to the consultation will form part of a report to Cabinet before any implementation is undertaken.

6 Background papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Ayub Khan Customer Services Manager (Face to Face)	ayubkhan@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 412657
Head of Service	Kushal Birla	kushalbirla@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 412013
Strategic Director	David Carter	davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 412564
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Kaur	cllrkaur@warwickshire.gov.uk