Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) Report

Section 3: Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment Report

This part of the assessment will help you to think <u>thoroughly</u> about the impact of this policy and to critically examine whether it is <u>likely</u> to have a positive or negative impact on different groups within our diverse community. It is also to identify any barriers that may detrimentally affect under-represented communities or groups, who may be disadvantaged by the way in which we carry out our business.

Using the information gathered either within the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, this EHRIA Report should be used to consider the impact or likely impact of the policy in relation to all areas of equality, diversity and human rights as outlined in Leicestershire County Council's Equality Strategy.

Section 3 **A: Research and Consultation**	
When considering the target groups it is important to think about whether new data needs to be collected or whether there is any existing research that can be utilised.	

15.	Based on the gaps identified either in the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, <u>how</u> have you now explored the following and <u>what</u> does this information/data tell you about each of the diverse groups?
	
	    a) current needs and aspirations and what is important to individuals and community groups (including human rights);
	
	    b) likely impacts (positive and negative, intended and unintended) to individuals and community groups (including human rights);
	
	    c) likely barriers that individuals and community groups may face (including human rights)

1. From April to July 2014 the County Council undertook a County wide public consultation exercise about a range of proposals for libraries which if implemented, would deliver the savings outlined in the MTFS. In total the savings for Communities and Wellbeing totalled £800,000. The consultation contained the following elements:

   - Online and hard copy survey
   - Stakeholder survey
   - Local public consultation meetings
   - 4 focus groups were held with two key protected groups: younger and older people. The work of the groups centred around the total proposals outlined in section 1 (1) para 3
   - 4 community partnership workshops to enable interested people and groups to further explore the detailed proposals with regard to partnership libraries

2. The full report on the outcomes of the consultation can be viewed in the cabinet report of 19th September via the following link
http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=4190&Ver=4

Demographic Analysis

3. The questionnaire included a range of demographic questions. As well as allowing for the profile of respondents to be understood it also makes it possible to understand the views of different groups. Each of the rating questions within the survey has been cross tabulated by a range of respondent groups. The full list can be seen on page 9 of Appendix B of the September cabinet report. Whilst the assessment has considered all 9 protected groups, the following groups have been focussed on as those where it is reasonable to suggest that they might be disproportionately affected by the proposals :

   - Gender
   - Age
   - Children aged 0-10
   - Children aged 11-17
   - Long term Illness or disability
   - Ethnicity
   - Religion.

4. Breaking down the survey response to each individual library does not give sufficient data to enable all considerations to be informed. However it is reasonable to assume that broad indicative responses from the survey overall can be used allied with local knowledge at each individual site and the responses noted from the individual community public meetings.

5. A demographic sub-group analysis was undertaken as part of the consultation. This can be found as Appendix J of the September cabinet report. This report analyses the demographic sub-groups within the context of the questions asked as part of the survey.   From this analysis the following groups can be summarised as being most affected when considering the implementation of the proposals:

   - Both genders
   - People of 75 years or older
   - Retired people
   - People with children
   - People with a disability
   - Children and young people

Use and Value

6. From the analysis overall, it is fair to conclude for all libraries that the majority of users come to the library to borrow a book or hire a CD and that this is no different for this library.

7. The following library services were valued a great deal from the general survey :

- Free Books for loan including e-books service (98%)
- 24/7 online renewals and reservations (75%)
- Events and activities for all ages (73%)
- Educational resources and support for children and young people (72%)
- Informal learning (71%)

8. The following services were thought most important from the general survey:

- Free books including the e-lending service (95%)
- Public Computers and public Wi-Fi (47%)
- Educational Resources for Children and young people (34%)
- Face to face advice (34%)
- 24/7 online renewals and reservations (27%)
- Events and activities for all ages (27%)

9. In addition, Fleckney Parish Church and Fleckney Parish Council and LCC Harborough Locality Partnership Co-ordinator and Friends of Fleckney. completed the stakeholder survey which broadly identified the same service areas:
- Free Books for Loan
- Public computers and Wi-Fi
- Events and Activities for all ages
- Local Studies
- Educational resources and support for children and young people
- Children's centre facility
- ICT suite
- Access to Age Concern
- Community hub for other partners
- Fleckney Museum

10. It is valuable to identify what is felt to be "valued a great deal " and "most important" as consideration will need to be given to governance arrangement as part of any new partnerships that might be established following these proposals. If a local group is established to manage a library, it will be important for them to understand these views.

Responses to proposals

11. The detailed analysis of the responses to the questions associated with the proposals for community partnership libraries can be found in Chapter 4 of Appendix B of the September Cabinet Report, and Chapter 4 of Appendix C of the September Cabinet report.

12. The community libraries affected by these proposals are: Anstey, Barrow upon Soar, Barwell, Bottesford, Braunstone Town, Burbage, Castle Donington, Cosby, Countesthorpe, Desford, East Goscote, Enderby, Fleckney, Glenhills, Great Glen, Groby, Hathern, Ibstock, Kegworth, Kibworth, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East, Market Bosworth, Markfield, Measham, Moutsorrel, Narborough, Newbold Verdon, Quorn, Ratby, Rothley, Sapcote, Sileby, South Wigston, Stoney Stanton, and

Thurmaston.

13. In broad terms, the consultation proposed that the County Council would offer a support package (including a contribution towards the infrastructure costs for an initial period of up to 5 years) if a local community organised itself to provide the staffing resource, presumed to be through volunteers.

14. Across all library responses, individuals who were more likely to agree with the proposals included those who had retired, those whose first choice library would be fully funded by the County Council, and those who were interested in running one of the 36 community libraries.

15. Individuals who were more likely to disagree with the proposals included those aged 35-54 years, those of other religion, those living in a town fringe suburb of the County, regular computer users, those who stated that they would not use an alternative library and those who were not interested in helping run one of the 36 community libraries.

16. Those respondents who were more likely to be interested a great deal or a fair amount in getting involved in running a community partnership library included; females, those aged under 35, those aged 55-74, those with no religion, and those using one of the 36 community libraries as their current library.

Impact if no community partnership came forward

17. For respondents who said that the library they used most often was a community library, a question was asked to ascertain how easy or difficult it would be for them to access alternative library services

18. The consultation asked people which alternative libraries they would use if Fleckney library was unavailable. Kibworth and Wigston Magna libraries were the most frequently cited, with other venues being Oadby and Market Harborough.

19. Individuals who were more likely to find access to alternative library services either *very or fairly easily* included: males, those aged 55-74, those with no children, those with two or more cars, those who were retired, those living in urban areas of the County and those who were interested in helping to run a community library.

20. Individuals who were more likely to find access to alternative library services either *very or fairly difficult* included those aged 75 years and older, those with children, those with an illness or disability, those living in town fringe areas of the County, those who stated that they would not use an alternative library and those who were not interested in running a community library.

21. Common themes made in free text comments included the following which presented possible barriers faced by communities, particularly if no community partnership was able to be established and a decision to close was a possibility

- **Increased distance to a nearest library**, associated with cost and time, not being able to walk to the local library, and general inconvenience

- **Transport** : Specifically dealing with transport issues such as lack of access to a

car, impractical or no suitable bus service

The nearest main library is Oadby. The distance by road is 6 miles. There is no bus service directly from Fleckney to Oadby library.

The next nearest main library is Market Harborough library which is 9 miles. There is an hourly bus service (Bus 44) but service ceases after 6.00pm. During winter months from October this service changes to a two hourly service and also ceases after 6.00pm.

There is no Sunday service from either Market Harborough or Oadby to Fleckney.

There is currently a mobile library provision on a 4 weekly basis to villages near Fleckney.

Saddington , Shearsby and Arnesby all on a Tuesday morning week 3

It is unknown at this stage if there are any plans to change transport links within this community.

- **Access of services associated with disabilities/old age**. Respondents were concerned with disabilities and mobility issues often associated with old age and the ability to access library services independently. In addition, this category also included those respondents who expressed concern for these groups or were worried how they would be able to access libraries in the future if they were to develop a disability or mobility issue, particular for those coming to Age Concern who use the building on a regular basis and access for the luncheon club and use library provisions**.**

- **Access of services associated with Children/young people**. Similar to the issues associated with disabilities/old age, particularly for children being able to access the library independently.

Tell us What You think comment received 1/7/2014
'I wish to keep the library open! It's a needed service to our community especially the children**!'**

22. Should a community partnership library be established, then it is anticipated that the core lending service would be maintained, and the impact of these issues would be mitigated. These become more critical factors should a situation arise where there is no willingness within a community to locally manage the library or a viable partnership library cannot be established, and alternative options which may include closure may have to be considered.

23. An Online interactive dashboard has been produced and is available through the following link:
   https://public.tableausoftware.com/views/LibrariesDashboardFINAL/Page1?:embed=y&:display_count=no:showVizHome=no

   This collates a community profile of each area and should be used as supplementary information in informing any decisions about the future of each local library should a community partnership not be established.

<u>Fleckney Public Meeting</u>

24. The Fleckney meeting took place at the Fleckney Sports Centre on 17th June 2014 at 7.00pm. The meeting was attended by 94 people

 A summary of the most significant issues associated with this EHRIA are:

- A concern that the nature of the library building would make it more difficult to be community- run in a sustainable way.
- A concern over what would happen in 5 years time and after that time as well.
- A concern about the local capacity available to recruit and sustain volunteers in order to form a community partnership library.
- Feelings that the library currently hosts a local history collection, Sure Start centre, and is used by other partners and therefore is already a partnership library and should be exempt from these proposals.

25. 47 exit questionnaires were returned after the meeting. 4% of respondents tended to agree or agreed strongly that the proposals provided a reasonable way forward given the resources available. 83% tended to disagree or disagree strongly. With regard to the proposals for the community partnership libraries, 11% tended to support or strongly support the proposals with 74% tending to oppose or strongly oppose. 21% said that they would probably consider getting involved, or would like to get involved in some way in running the local library. Following the meeting Fleckney residents were asked to sign a petition which has 1268 names attached against proposals.

<u>Perceptions of School age and Older Library users</u>

26. As part of the consultation, the Council commissioned independent qualitative research with school age and older library users about the proposals. These two protected groups form significant demographic groups who use all libraries, and the research outcome can be used to inform decision making regarding libraries generally. The details of the report can be viewed in Appendix F of the September Cabinet Report.

27. A summary of the main points are :

- Participants felt that libraries had a broad social and economic role which impacted on educational opportunities for young people and adults, and benefitted the health and wellbeing of residents with implications at key stages of their lives.
- Accessibility to services was important for school age and older library users-both in terms of proximity and the ease of getting to a venue. School age children wanted to be able to get to a library under their own steam.
- The most important aspect of library services for both groups is access to books for borrowing.
- Knowledgeable staff was seen as important
- The social aspect of the library, for sharing common interests and meeting friends and acquaintances was seen as important for older children and older library users
- Library activities in terms of groups and classes were seen as important to both groups.

28. The impact of the proposed changes initially resulted in caution from both groups, mainly associated with the points highlighted in paragraph 28. Once more information was explored about the nature of the proposals against the financial challenges, both groups perceived some value in a library managed by a local community, dependent upon the support package that is made available.

29. Following further discussion it became clear that the existence of a 'library function' was seen as most important rather than the management arrangements for that function. This is important to consider should no community partnership come forward to run the library and should inform future decisions.

16.	Is any further research, data collection or evidence required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known affects of the policy on target groups?

30. The survey and consultation results together with the data already held on Library use and locality data reflecting deprivation was expected to be sufficient to enable us to understand the Equality and Human Rights impacts on Communities and protected groups. However, the Stakeholder responses have raised further issues that need to be explored, i.e.:

a. The proposal to retain core libraries in urban sites was questioned on the grounds that towns have more alternative provisions than rural settings. An alternative would be nominating rural sites as core provision instead.
b. Participants in the survey requested more information on training of volunteers.
c. More information was requested on funding arrangements, employment status, and running costs. A number of participants felt that their commitment to involvement in the future running of services could only be made with comprehensive data available.

31. Work is in progress to provide more detail in these areas and for the findings to be reported back to cabinet in November 2014.

32. In addition, a Scrutiny Review Panel is scheduled for October 2014 to review the information outlined in c. above.

Resource materials that have been consulted so far include:

Leicestershire County Council: Report to cabinet 19th September 2014. "Outcome of consultation on proposals for changes in the delivery of library services", Includes:

Appendix B: main consultation survey reports
Appendix C: stakeholder consultation survey results
Appendix D: reports from consultation events
Appendix E: community partnership workshops
Appendix F: report on qualitative results
Appendix J: Demographic sub group analysis.

Sustaining Cultural Services (produced by Sue Charteris for Leicestershire County Council September 2013)

Optimising library location for six target groups across Leicestershire (LCC Research & Insight 2013)

Creating a Comprehensive Library Service – getting the Equality Duty right (Sue Charteris February 2014)

Leicestershire County Council; Corporate Information Service data on services provided at all 52 library locations.

Leicestershire County Council; Research & Insight data on library usage, membership and issue numbers 2013/14.

2011 Census results for Leicestershire.

Leicestershire County Council; public transport data.

Arts Council England; Community Libraries publications:

- Learning from Experience – guiding principles for local authorities
- Learning from Experience - summary briefing for local authorities
- Community Libraries – 10 case studies

When considering who is affected by this proposed policy, it is important to think about consulting with and involving a range of service users, staff or other stakeholders who may be affected as part of the proposal.

17.	Based on the gaps identified either in the EHRIA Screening or independently of this process, how have you further consulted with those affected on the likely impact and what does this consultation tell you about each of the diverse groups?

33. The potential disadvantages to protected groups identified in Section 2 (part 9) have largely been confirmed by the consultation surveys, community meetings and focus group activity. The resulting observations are carried over into part 19 (below) and will be addressed with any necessary mitigation in the Equalities Improvement Plan.

18.	Is any further consultation required to fill any gaps in your understanding of the potential or known effects of the policy on target groups?

34. Depending on the outcome of further work suggested by the questions arising from the survey and consultation (outlined in 16 above), further consultation may be necessary.

19.	Based on any evidence and findings, use the table below to specify if any individuals or community groups who identify with any 'protected characteristics' are likely be affected by this policy. Describe any positive and negative impacts, including what barriers these individuals or groups may face.
	Comments

Age	In Fleckney 3% of respondents to the survey were aged under 16. 6% were aged between 16-24 44% were aged between 25-54 44% of respondents were aged 55-85. 3% were over the age of 85. The observations made in part 2 above have held through consultation. These mostly relate to services for children and young people, supporting both their educational development and their parent's efforts to ensure good educational opportunities outside of School and term times. It is also of note that a responses to the Consultation came from 25-85 years age groups, reflecting a relatively high level of engagement and concern with the future of Library services from this age group.	
Disability	In Fleckney 3% of respondents to the survey identified themselves as having a long term illness or disability As above, the factors of concern with this group will need to be addressed in the revised service. The principal one being access to Library services in the event of library closure or a reduction in local provision. Consideration of transport links, the pattern of the future network, and decisions regarding the Home and Mobile library networks are all therefore material considerations for this EHRIA.	
Gender Reassignment	In Fleckney no respondent to the survey identified themselves as having a gender reassignment Nothing was identified in the Consultation	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Nothing was identified in the consultation	
Pregnancy and Maternity	As an information point, Libraries may play an important role in this respect. However, this is an area where alternative sources such as doctor's surgeries would be expected to have a role. Consideration as to impact of changes to the service in respect to children would need to be borne in mind	
Race	In Fleckney no respondents to the survey identified themselves as being Black or Black British with 100% respondents identified as being White.	
Religion or Belief	In Fleckney 36% of respondents to the survey stated that they had no religion, 64%, Christian. The level of engagement with different religious groups was largely in line with demographics. There were no counter indicators in the responses. Little evidence was presented that suggested that people with different religions or beliefs were disproportionately affected by the proposals	
Sex	In Fleckney, 85% of respondents to the survey were Female. Women were disproportionately represented in the overall consultation. Although this is reflected in Adults & Communities services as a whole, in the case of libraries this is likely to reflect the greater role that women have in the provision of child care and the engagement that Libraries offer for young children. This is particularly the case for libraries such as	

		Fleckney which are Community centre based.
	Sexual Orientation	In Fleckney 96% of respondents to the survey identified themselves as heterosexual with 4% identified as bi-sexual Nothing of note emerged from the consultation.
	Other groups **e.g. rural isolation, deprivation, health inequality, carers, asylum seeker and refugee communities, looked after children, deprived or disadvantaged communities**	The consultation event elicited comments which linked the apprehensions around a Voluntarily run facility and lack of potential volunteers and objections with the principle of volunteers replacing paid staff. This concern is reflected in the level of disagreement with the proposals for Fleckney, at the consultation event given the resources available (83%). The comments made for Age groups above are pertinent across the board for rural isolation in Fleckney and lack of facilities for the elderly and young children should the library close.
	Community Cohesion	Fleckney library is currently a community hub which also holds within its facilities the Sure Start centre, the Fleckney Museum, Age UK and other community partners, including a regular Disability group. It is an important community resource for Fleckney , and any changes to the Library provision will need to take account of any impact on the future of the centre as a whole.

20.	Based on any evidence and findings, use the table below to specify if any particular Articles in the Human Rights Act are <u>likely</u> apply to your policy. Are the human rights of any individuals or community groups affected by this proposal? Is there an impact on human rights for any of the protected characteristics?

	Comments
Part 1: The Convention- Rights and Freedoms	
Article 2: Right to life	N/A
Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way	N/A
Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/ forced labour	N/A
Article 5: Right to liberty and security	N/A
Article 6: Right to a fair trial	N/A
Article 7: No punishment without law	N/A
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life	As referred to in part 2, the library makes a significant contribution to family life as 1 in 5 local children do not have access to a book at home.
Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Libraries are a vital source of information, particularly for marginalised groups (e.g. from minority cultures) who may not have this readily available from other

		sources (e.g. local retail outlets). In this sense, the service promotes the rights contained in Article 9.
	Article 10: Right to freedom of expression	N/A
	Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association	N/A
	Article 12: Right to marry	N/A
	Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against	The shortfalls that may occur, as identified for Articles 8 & 9, are more likely to discriminate against certain groups, e.g. BME or people from minority faiths.
	Part 2: The First Protocol	
	Article 1: Protection of property/ peaceful enjoyment	N/A
	Article 2: Right to education	The educational functions of libraries are a strong aspect of their provision, and added value comes from the Summer Reading Challenge, Bookstart, and the study / homework support. It is recognised that this is not part of mainstream statutory education provision, but an important enhancement.
	Article 3: Right to free elections	N/A

Section 3
C: Mitigating and Assessing the Impact

Taking into account the research, data, consultation and information you have reviewed and/or carried out as part of this EHRIA, it is now essential to assess the impact of the policy.

21.	If you consider there to be actual or potential adverse impact or discrimination, please outline this below. State whether it is justifiable or legitimate and give reasons.

35. The intention behind the current proposal is that current services will continue, but operated by local communities with a measure of professional support. In order to satisfy the PSED in respect of potential disadvantages outlined above, it will be necessary for the related services to either continue or be realistically available and accessible to service users elsewhere, but not necessarily in the same format. It will be LCC's responsibility either to ensure that the revised provision meets this need, or to identify the alternatives.

36. For Fleckney , the services that fall into this category are:

For children & young people (principally school age):

- Providing Homework space / Homework help
- Children's story tapes/CDs
- Bookstart
- Parent led story time
- Bookstart Treasure Bags
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Study support for children & young people

- ICT suite

For people with disabilities:

- Home Library Service for those who cannot leave the home

37. All parties involved in the running of future Library operations (whether Council run or not) will be informed of EHRIA findings and the PSED duties for each location will be clarified. For council run services the duties & responsibilities will be clear, for Community (i.e. Voluntary) run examples the exact means of discharging responsibilities will need to be established, and may vary between different models.

38. Should communities not come forward to manage local libraries, then further assessment through the EHRIA process in tandem with any issues highlighted through the interactive community dashboard should be considered in order to inform future decision making.

N.B.

i. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is <u>illegal</u>, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.

ii. If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is <u>justifiable or legitimate,</u> you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

| **22.** | Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

a) include any relevant research and consultations findings which highlight the best way in which to minimise negative impact or discrimination

b) consider what barriers you can remove, whether reasonable adjustments may be necessary, and how any unmet needs that you have identified can be addressed

c) if you are not addressing any negative impacts (including human rights) or potential barriers identified for a particular group, please explain why |

39. The following comments address points raised during the survey and consultation processes.
- If provision or support is removed, it is unlikely to be reinstated. Therefore, if community volunteers offer to run libraries, some measure of sustainability needs to be established.
- The infrastructure support package needs to be clear in order for communities to take an informed decision as to whether a proposed local partnership arrangement is viable. This would include the training of community group volunteers and/or staffing arrangements, a clear partnership agreement established, and the level of professional

| | support available from the County Council once community partnership libraries have been established. |
| | Should communities not come forward then other local locations, venues, and the deployment of the mobile library service should be explored in order to ensure access to books for lending, the home library service and supporting children and young people with educational resources in an informal setting. E- books and the internet are changing the way that people access books. These mediums may be harnessed to address some of the potential disadvantages identified in this EHRIA. Libraries are increasingly being recognised as community hubs which have value for community cohesion and as a means of reducing social and rural isolation. This is particularly the case for Fleckney as it shares its building with the Sure Start Centre and houses an ICT suite and Fleckney Museum. It is therefore necessary to take account of the future security and viability of the centre in the context of the decision about the library's future. |

Section 3
D: Making a decision

23.	Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Leicestershire County Council's responsibilities in relation to equality, diversity, community cohesion and human rights.
	40. In the event of community libraries either continuing as an LCC provision, or being run voluntarily, the mitigating actions identified below in the Equalities Improvement Plan will be expected to be taken by the responsible body. If similar provision can be identified elsewhere that meets the same need this would be a valid means of meeting the PSED requirement.

Section 3
E: Monitoring, evaluation & review of your policy

24.	Are there processes in place to review the findings of this EHRIA and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?
	41. In the case of a continuing provision with LCC involvement, the actions and targets outlined in the Equality Improvement Plan will be periodically reviewed for effectiveness and possible revision.
	42. If a provision is run through commissioning , the Procurement process has its own inbuilt Equality & Human Rights impact mechanism
	43. At present, it is not clear how an EHRIA relating to a community run library would be implemented and reviewed. Establishing this would be a factor to consider when arrangements are drawn up, in conjunction with Legal Services.
25.	How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? *e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems*

44. The decision regarding the future of Fleckney Library, together with all others in the network, will have an impact on the totality of Communities and Wellbeing's services, particularly the proposed Core provision. It will be necessary to establish clear lines of support and responsibilities, particularly what can be expected of any professional staff. The inter dependencies with other services that require clarity include the Home and Mobile Library Services.

45. As referred to earlier, if mitigation is to be met through an alternative provision (such as a service referred to in the preceding paragraph) then that service will require periodic review to assess its effectiveness.

Section 3:
F: Equality and human rights improvement plan

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from the Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Objective	Action	Target	Officer Responsible	By when
Protect the interests of disabled people in future library provision	Take account of accessibility and public transport provision when establishing the future pattern of the Library network. Take any geographical deficits into consideration when designing revised Mobile Library routes and Home Library provision. Ensure that any organisation taking over the running of a Library is aware of the Equality Act and Disability Discrimination provisions.	Maintain and where possible improve the use of all library sites and services by people with disabilities of any kind.	Nigel Thomas	March 2015
Protecting the interests of different age groups	Ensure, where possible, the continued operation	Maintenance of current support for young people	Nigel Thomas	March 2015

	of current services that assist children and parents with educational goals. Where this is not possible, identify alternative sources of similar services or encourage their development.	and their parents, particularly those in deprived areas. Maintain engagement with services by people of all age ranges.		
Protect the interests of minority ethnic groups and all faiths	Ensure that information and materials held in libraries reflect the cultural and faith needs of the locality.	Maintain engagement with services.	Nigel Thomas	March 2015
Preserve and promote community cohesion	Continue support and provision for wider groups through the network of the proposed Council funded libraries. e.g. unemployed, job seekers.		Locality Managers and local officers	Quarterly reviews
Combat the effects of social and rural isolation.	Take account of geographical location of services including mobile libraries when establishing the pattern of future provision.	Prevent the development of unserved areas and inconsistent provision. Consult on mobile library provision	Nigel Thomas	March 2015

	Maintain and develop E-books and Internet services.			
Ensure sustainability of services to protect all protected groups.	Thorough assessment of expressions of interest. Provision of training for volunteers Clarity of Infrastructure support arrangements Clarity of continued professional support for community run sites. Establish clear partnership agreements Clarify legal arrangements	Ensure that people continue to have access to library services who wish to.	Nigel Thomas Derk van der Wardt	March 2015

Section 4: Sign off and scrutiny

Upon completion, the Lead Officer completing this assessment is required to sign the document in the section below.

It is required that this Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) is scrutinised by your [Departmental Equalities Group](#) and signed off by the Chair of the Group.

Once scrutiny and sign off has taken place, a depersonalised version of this EHRIA should be published on Leicestershire County Council's website. Please send a copy of this form to louisa.jordan@leics.gov.uk, Members Secretariat, in the Chief Executive's department for publishing.

Section 4
A: Sign Off and Scrutiny

Confirm, as appropriate, which elements of the EHRIA have been completed and are required for sign off and scrutiny.

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Screening | X |

Equality and Human Rights Assessment Report | X |

1st Authorised Signature (EHRIA Lead Officer): …………………………………………………

Date: ………………………….

2nd Authorised Signature (DEG Chair): … *[signature]* ………….

Date: …04.11.14……………