

Proposal 5: Library Media Fund

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1	What is the proposal?
<p>The Library and Information Service has a media fund which is used for the purchase of new books, including books in large print and talking books, DVDs, newspapers and magazines, and material in other languages. The media fund also provides the Libraries 24/7 offer enabling people to access online reference resources e.g. Encyclopaedia Britannica, and online downloads e.g. E-books, E-audiobooks, E-magazines and online newspapers.</p> <p>The proposal is to cut the library media fund of £658,000 by £100,000 in 2016/17.</p>	
2	What is the rationale for this particular proposal and what are the key messages?
<p>The budget was not fully spent in 2014/15. The proposed cut in funding will not have any direct impact on users.</p>	
3	Service Description
3.1	What does the service do?
<p>The Coventry Library and Information Service provide a wide range of services. The core services provided in Community Libraries include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book lending, including books in large print and in community languages• Space for activities and events• Information• Internet access• DVD lending including box sets• CD's• Newspapers, magazines• Readers' Groups	
3.2	How many people use the service?
<p>Library and Information Service users that use the library to access new books, magazines, newspapers CDs and DVD's would potentially be impacted by a reduced media fund.</p> <p>In 2014/15 there were a total of 976,797 book issues, excluding downloads of e books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines across the Library and Information Service. For 2014/15 this was a -8.04% decrease in book issues when compared to 2013/14.</p>	
3.3	When is the service open?
<p>N/A – The proposal is about reducing the media fund.</p>	
3.4	Are service users currently charged for using the service?
<p>Libraries offer free access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Book borrowing (initial loan 4 weeks)• Information• IT resources – (2 hours free internet use)• Events and activities <p>There are small charges made for the loan of CD's and DVD's, computer printouts, photocopying and use of the fax machine. Additionally any computer usage over the free two hour period, there is a charge is applied.</p> <p>Charges are also made where items are returned late.</p>	
3.5	What is the history and background to the service?
<p>Coventry is a compact city and has seen a large population growth over the past 100 years, from 62,000 in 1901 to almost 330,000 in 2014.</p>	

There are three “Carnegie” libraries situated in Coventry – Earlsdon, Foleshill and Stoke.

The Carnegie libraries in Coventry are the libraries built with money donated by Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie, a Scottish American industrialist, held a special interest in local libraries and had given away a huge amount of his wealth to charities and foundations by the time of his death in 1919.

The central library opened in 1986 in its current location. Up until the 1990’s library services were operated from a mixture of buildings across the city. Willenhall Library opened in 1995 as part of a redevelopment of the retail area and housing redevelopment in Willenhall.

Following the publication of National Public Library Standards in 2001, it was stipulated that unitary authorities should provide a footprint of public library facilities ensuring that no resident had to travel more than 2 miles to access a service¹.

In 2001 ‘Best Value’ inspected Coventry City libraries and awarded them ‘no stars for the quality of its service’ and outlined eight recommendations for improvement.

Coventry City Council committed to provide a modern vibrant library service to meet the needs of Coventry. Libraries were refurbished and modernised as community hubs, ready to lead on information, education and digital inclusion.

Investment from the Council was used to create new library facilities, libraries in shared buildings and to redesign existing libraries. Stoke, Arena Park, Bell Green and Cheylesmore were some of the first libraries to be part of the change.

The new style of libraries was successful and informed the further modernisation of Earlsdon and Foleshill. Property development opportunities saw the creation of Caludon Castle, Tile Hill, Stoke Aldermoor, Arena Park and Allesley Libraries; all of which have opened since 2000.

Central Library was modernised and refurbished in 2012.

3.6	Is there any additional relevant service information? (e.g. value of service/interdependencies etc.)
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The Arts Council plays a significant role in supporting and developing the libraries sector. The Art Council’s vision for libraries is that they inspire and empower people to lead active lives, enriched through cultural experience. Recent research ‘Envisioning the library of the future’ was a major project undertaken by the Arts Council in 2012/13 in order to understand the future for libraries, and how to enable them to develop.

The research found that public libraries are trusted spaces, open to all, in which people continue to explore and share the joys of reading, information, knowledge and culture. It is clear that people value the services that libraries provide and will continue to do so. Indeed, there is a clear message that there is a compelling and continuing need for a publicly funded library service.

The research also highlighted that public libraries face many challenges in the coming years, including advances in technology, which affect the ways in which people want to connect to information and culture, reduced public expenditure, the increasing involvement of citizens in the design and delivery of public services, and the needs of an ageing population.

4	What are the proposed financial savings?
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The Council can save a total of £100k from reducing the media fund which is used to buy new books, magazines, newspapers CDs and DVD’s, material in other languages; online resources and resources for people with visual impairments.

¹ PLSS1- Proportion of households living within specified distance of a static library. Unitary 2 miles

5	What is the potential impact on service users (see Equality and Consultation Analysis) and what is the potential mitigation?
<p>This proposal will affect children, adults, older people and disabled people who visit and use the Library and Information Service to access new books, magazines, newspapers CDs and DVD's. The media fund also purchases materials in a number of different formats and collections which are targeted at people with disability e.g. books in large print, stories on tape, Books on Prescription Collection for mental ill health and dementia (issues of this collection are a Marmot indicator), Pictures to Share (Dementia collection).</p> <p>The Library and Information Service supplies most residential care homes in the city with books for residents who are unable to access a library. Less new material would be purchased and this would mean that potentially people may wait longer to access them.</p> <p>The remaining media fund would be prioritised to meet user needs and Council priorities, for example health and well-being material.</p>	
6	What is the impact on staff?
N/A There would be no impact on staff as this proposal is about a reduction in the media fund.	
7	What are the potential options are there for the use of the buildings?
N/A – This proposal is about a reduction in the media fund and therefore isn't related to any building.	
8	What other service alternatives have been considered?
<p>The proposal about the media fund is one of a number of current proposals affecting the Library and Information Service. Other proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal 2 - To end delivery of library services from the Arena Library facility (and not renew the lease) and to enter into discussions to relocate reduced library provision at an alternative community location in Holbrooks. • Proposal 3 - To end delivery of library services (and not renew the lease) from the current Willenhall Library facility and to continue discussions with the Haggard Centre about a more cost effective community library being located within the Centre. • Proposal 4 – To end the mobile library service. • Proposal 6 – For Central Library to continue to open seven days per week, but to close one hour earlier on weekdays – closing at 7pm instead of 8pm. • Proposal 7– To standardise opening hours across all community libraries. All community libraries will be closed on Wednesdays and Sundays. 	