

**OPTION: LIBRARIES AND ONE STOP SHOPS**

**BUDGET SAVING: £629,000**

### **DESCRIPTION OF OPTION**

This option is regarding potential savings options in relation to the Council's range of One Stop Shop and Library sites through a range of changes to the service.

**The options involved in this area include:**

- **Further merging of existing library and one stop shop sites, which bring savings in terms of reducing the number of staff which are required**
- **Options regarding reducing opening hours particularly around Christmas and New Year**
- **Reducing the book fund which is currently allocated on an annual basis to Libraries.**

This option would also involve encouraging volunteers to take a greater role in Library services, and to further investigate and explore the possibility of community asset transfer for some sites.

### **RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS**

#### **Merging of Libraries and One Stop Shops**

**Budget Saving: £400,000**

This proposal represents the likely savings that will be achieved via the current programme of merging One Stop Shops and Libraries. This builds on the sum already within the 2012/13 savings programme of £200k.

The sites offering wider service availability will be more attractive as a local community hub and focal point for services and allow other agencies, organisations to utilise and support the facilities.

#### **Library & OSS reduced hours (Christmas & New Year)**

**Budget Saving: £90,000**

A one off saving of £90k, achieved via savings in cost of buildings and overall the need for staff at this time. This would be via reduced hours or total staff in service. This proposal can be independent or complimentary to the above option regarding merging sites and may be affected by the wider proposals on staffing terms and conditions

#### **Reduction of the Book Fund**

This proposal would involve the Book Fund, which is allocated to libraries on an annual basis, being reduced by £139,000.

### **IMPACT**

#### **Merging of Libraries and One Stop Shops**

This merger widens the function of sites, which will to a degree reduce staffing at merged sites. This would see a number of actual sites merge to reduce the total

number of sites, reducing buildings occupied and maximising use of sites. There is a requirement to improve some of the joint buildings which could only be financed by reserves to the level available.

**Library & OSS reduced hours (Christmas & New Year)**

This proposal requires consultation with users and partners and is unlikely to affect our statutory responsibility for providing an efficient and comprehensive library service. The staffing implications are that each site would be closed during this period with a single One Stop Shop maintained for emergency contact and this would allow the reduced staffing resources easier deployment through the rest of the year

**MITIGATION**

**Library One Stop Shop operating arrangements via merger and re-provision**

Aligned to this would be the ongoing work already underway to maximise the effective use of volunteers, partner organisations and local community to support and complement the service available. This proposal requires consultation with users and partners and is unlikely to affect our statutory responsibility for providing an efficient and comprehensive library service. The staffing implications are that as each site is merged there is potential savings and within these proposals would see an overall reduction of six full time employees in each year.

**Library & OSS reduced hours (Christmas & New Year)**

The proposal is to close Library and One Stop sites between Christmas and New Year. This is reducing the service, but at a time when usage is well below the norm in any case and some level of contact service would still be maintained.