
Future Provision of Libraries and Community Centres implementation update

Neighbourhoods and Culture Scrutiny Commission

Date of meeting: 2nd November 2026

Lead director: Sean Atterbury

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Lee Warner
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- Report version number: Final

1. Summary

- 1.1 A presentation is appended outlining progress with the implementation of the decision taken in March 2026 for the Future Provision of Libraries and Community Centres.

2. Recommended actions/decision

- 2.1 Culture and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission is recommended to note the summary of the implementation to date of the decision for the Future Provision of Libraries and Community Centres.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

- 3.1 A presentation is appended outlining progress with the implementation of the decision taken in March 2026 for the Future Provision of Libraries and Community Centres.

5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

The Executive decision taken in March 2026 declared savings in 2026/27 of £500k, with permanent savings of £1,570k from 2027/28 onwards. The achievement of those savings will be heavily dependent upon the actual transfer of assets to community organisations, and savings delivery will therefore be at risk until those actions are completed.

Signed: Stuart McAvoy - Head of Finance
Dated: 16th October 2026

5.2 Legal implications

The matters set out in this report relate to the implementation of the decision taken in March 2026 concerning the future provision of libraries and community centres. Implementation should continue in accordance with the terms of that decision and the Council's relevant statutory duties and policies.

The proposed Community Asset Transfers will require appropriate assessment of the business cases received and suitable legal arrangements to protect the Council's interests and secure the intended community benefits. Any individual property, contractual, procurement or subsidy control issues arising through implementation should be addressed as part of the relevant transfer or implementation process.

Signed: Kamal Adatia

Dated: 14th October 2026

5.3 Equalities implications

This report provides an update on implementation of the decision taken in March 2026. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out in relation to the Future Provision of Libraries and Community Centres. The EIA will be kept under review and updated as required as implementation progresses.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148
Dated: 19 October 2026

5.4 Climate Emergency implications

This report provides an update on implementation of the decision taken in March 2026 and the detailed climate emergency implications provided for the decision report remain relevant.

As implementation progresses, on balance, there is likely to be a reduction in the council's own emissions associated with reducing the number of buildings within the operational estate, however the city as a whole may see little change in its annual emissions with a minor risk of these increasing over time if opportunities to carry out energy efficiency, renewable energy and decarbonisation improvements are not realised for buildings that have been transferred out of the operational estate.

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer, Ext 372246
Dated: 20 October 2026

5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A: Future Provision of Libraries & Community Centres Implementation update