

Future Provision of Libraries & Community Centres Implementation update

2 November 2026

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Background

- The Future Provision of Libraries & Community Centres is a transformational programme for Neighbourhood Services scoping in the whole service at all settings.
- A Community Services & Library Needs Assessment was carried out in 2023 – 25.
 - Public engagement (Primary research) July – September 2023
 - Secondary research report – October 2024
 - Transformation proposals developed Summer 2024
 - Publication of Engagement reports October 2024
 - Consultation on transformation proposals Spring 2025
 - Revised proposals post-consultation published November 2025

Decision March 2026

Key points:

- 18 facilities retained
- Multi-service centre model, focus on health and wellbeing
- Revised opening hours in line with “near neighbours”
- Extend self-access scheme to 8 libraries
- Community Asset Transfer opportunities for 6 community centres
- Relocation of St Matthews Library and services
- Capital investment in retained centres
- Withdrawal from Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & Library

Decision March 2026

Changes made after consultation:

- Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre & Rushey Mead Recreation retained with increased income targets
- 3 libraries proposed for community running to be retained under Council management
- Proposed opening hours patterns revised
- Savings reduced from £2.1m to £1.57m

Progress update November 2026

1. New Opening Hours

- Timetables for all libraries updated following consultation
- Local groups consulted to ensure access
- Toddler Time and Study Support sessions accommodated with minor changes
- DWP Job shops, Housing pop-up offices, Class visits and activity groups retained
- Self-access for community groups set up

Centre	Staffed Hours Per Week	Self-Access Hours
Central Library	45	
Aylestone Library (Leisure Centre MSC)	30	Yes
Beaumont Leys Library MSC	40	
Belgrave Library MSC	40	Yes
BRITE Centre MSC	40	Yes
Hamilton Library MSC	30	Yes
Highfields Library MSC	40	
New Parks Centre MSC	30	Yes
Pork Pie Library MSC	30	Yes
St Barnabas Library MSC	40	Yes
St Matthews Library (relocated to CYPF MSC)	30	
Thurnby Lodge Centre MSC (with small library)	30	Yes
Westcotes Library MSC	30	
Evington Library	25	Yes
Knighton Library	25	Yes
Rushey Mead Library	20	
Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre	As required	
Rushey Mead Recreation Centre	Self-access	Yes

1. New Opening Hours

Communications campaign

- Ward Councillors briefed 2nd September
- Face to face - groups and library users
- Notices displayed at all facilities
- Libraries & My Leicester newsletter
- Library bookmarks and flyers
- Face to face

Implemented 5th October

An orange flyer with a background pattern of faint clock faces. The text is in white and black. It announces a change in library opening hours starting from 5 October 2026. It includes a QR code and the Leicester City Council logo.

Our library opening hours are changing

From 5 October 2026 Leicester Libraries will have new opening hours.

We look forward to welcoming you during our new hours.



Scan to see the new hours or ask staff for details

libraries.leicester.gov.uk



2. Library Plus (Self-Access)

- Library Plus (Self Access) trialled in Evington and Knighton Libraries from 2021
- In addition to core staffed hours
- Access from 8am to 8pm Mon – Fri for 16yrs+
- Access via library card and PIN (bank model)
- Live CCTV monitoring and emergency 'phone
- Book loans, computer access, study and meet

2. Library Plus implementation

Library	Planned Date
Evington Library	Installed
Knighton Library	Installed
Hamilton Library	Installed – Oct 26
Belgrave Library	Installed – Oct 26
BRITE Centre Library	November 26
New Parks Centre Library	November 26
Pork Pie Library	January 2027
St Barnabas Library	January 2027

2. Library Plus - benefits

Library	Staffed hours	Self Access	Total hours
Evington Library	25	38	63
Knighton Library	25	39	64
Hamilton Library	30	34	64
Belgrave Library	40	23	63
BRITE Centre Library	40	23	63
New Parks Centre Library	30	33	63
Pork Pie Library	30	33	63
St Barnabas Library	40	26	66

3. Community Asset Transfer

- CAT Opportunities published 5th Oct:
 - Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre
 - Coleman Neighbourhood Centre
 - Eyres Monsell Community Centre
 - Gilmorton Community Rooms
 - Tudor Centre
- Armadale Centre to be offered later

3. Community Asset Transfer

- Facilities offered for 5-year lease under Council's CAT policy
- Using the same model as 11 current successful CAT transfers
- Significant community benefit must be demonstrated through Business Plans
- Voluntary Action Leicester commissioned to support groups
- Significant early interest in all buildings during consultation phase
- Council will continue to run facilities up to transfer

3. Community Asset Transfer

Programme overview

Date	Action	Status
5 Oct 2026	CAT opportunities published	✓
12 Oct 2026	Launch meetings held	✓
Oct - Dec	Community organisations develop business plans with support from VAL	
10 Jan 2027	Deadline for business case submissions	
Jan 2027	Officers assess business cases	
Feb 2027	Ward councillors consulted Recommendations made to executive Award decisions	
Mar - Oct	Legal and handover arrangements	



3. Community Asset Transfer

Benefits

- Sustainable futures for community buildings
- Community management empowers local people
- Local groups highly engaged with community networks
- Access to grant funding not available to LCC
- Financial saving for LCC

4. Withdrawal from Fosse Neighbourhood Centre & Library

- All community room hire groups relocated
- Library customers transferred to their preferred near library
- Children's BookBus: Fosse route commenced
- Housebound customers/families offered Home Library Service
- Alice Hawkins Community Projects to continue in annex until December 2026

Next steps

- Complete rollout of Library Self-Access (Autumn 2026)
- Appointment of Volunteer Coordinator to support local engagement (Autumn 2026)
- Community Asset Transfer programme (Autumn 2026 / Spring 2027)
- Refurbishment of St Matthews Family Hub and transfer of library (first half 2027)
- Capital investment programme (2027)

Any Questions?