

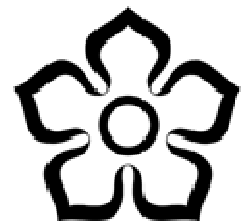
Report to Scrutiny Commission

Neighbourhood Services and Community
Involvement

Date of Commission meeting: 26th January 2015

Libraries Printed Music and Drama Service: Update Report

Report of the Director of Culture and Neighbourhood
Services



Leicester
City Council

Useful Information:

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Adrian Wills: Head of Neighbourhood Services
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1. Summary

This report updates the report to Scrutiny Commission of 30th June 2014.

Following the consultation undertaken with printed music and drama service subscribers, it became clear that a new option for the future of the music and drama service in Leicester and Leicestershire should be developed.

In close cooperation with Leicester City Council, the concept of a regional service offer is being investigated by Nottingham City Libraries with the support of Making Music and Locality. This service, if found to be viable, would provide a service to music groups in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Scrutiny Commission is advised that further consultation and market testing into the viability of a new business model for a regional service will be carried out with music groups in the cities and counties of Nottingham and Leicester.

If the business case for the service proves to be viable, then this could provide a suitable service for Leicester and Leicestershire. Market research will be carried out by Nottingham City Library Service to further explore the model and this is expected to take place during a 2 week period in February 2015.

2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny

- a) The Scrutiny Commission is recommended to note the actions taken since June 2014, in the light of the findings of the consultation.
- b) The Scrutiny Commission is recommended to note the market research exercise that is to be carried out in February 2015 to examine and test a potential model for a regional service.

3. Supporting Information

This report updates the report to Scrutiny Commission that was presented on 30th June 2014 concerning the future of the Libraries printed music and drama service. It summarises the results of the consultation that was carried out in April/ May 2014 into a proposal for the future delivery of the printed music and drama service. It describes the progress that has been made over the last few months in exploring options for a future service.

3.1 Key Points from the Consultation

As a reminder to the Scrutiny Commission, the key findings of the consultation on a proposal to offer a more limited service were as follows:-

- 51% of groups said that inter-library loans were important to them. This observation was supported by the Making Music organisation who represented the groups and provided information to the Scrutiny Commission meeting in June 2014
- 29.4% of groups suggested specific inter-library loan charges be introduced
- 41% said that the loss of advanced booking of scores would be a significant limitation to the service
- 25% said that they would pay more to ensure that these services were retained

Suggestions from the consultees included:-

- 55% suggested an increased annual subscription
- 11.8% suggested that the service be transferred to another organisation with the expertise and funding to run a full service
- 5.9% suggested that a larger scale service at national or regional level would be a better alternative

3.2 Feedback on Agreed Actions at the June Scrutiny Commission meeting

At the Scrutiny Commission meeting in June which discussed the findings from the consultation and heard representations from Making Music on behalf of groups using the service, the Assistant Mayor for Neighbourhoods agreed that further research into alternative ways to provide a sustainable service should be carried out. It was also agreed that the service be relocated from Southfields library to the Fosse Community Centre library. Both of these actions have been carried out.

It is clear that any new proposed service would benefit from providing requests and inter-library loans but the pressure that Leicester Libraries faces in terms of financial resources is becoming even greater, so services will have to be delivered differently.

Leicester Libraries have therefore been in contact with colleagues in Nottingham City Libraries, who also provide a printed music and drama service, to see if there is a new way of working that would deliver the type of service that groups in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland aspire to. It was agreed that options for a regional service based on Nottingham would be investigated.

3.3 Feasibility Study Into a New Regional Service

- Working in partnership with Making Music, who made representations to Scrutiny Commission in June, Nottingham City Libraries are developing a business case to become the provider of a regional printed music and drama service.
- Research is required to establish whether this concept is feasible, through engagement in both the Nottingham and Leicester areas among music groups. It is therefore intended to carry out research in February in Nottingham and Leicester/shire and Rutland to establish the feasibility a regional service.
- Music groups will be contacted to seek their views on options for a regional service. Nottingham City Libraries will lead on the development of a business

case for a new model of service.

- The intention would be to develop a sustainable new service by April 2015 that would support the activities of music groups in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
- Any decisions on changes to the current service offer in Leicester arising from this work will be taken to the Leicester City Council's Executive and then to this Scrutiny Commission.

4. Financial, legal and other implications

4.1 Financial implications

'There are no significant financial implications arising from this report, which provides an update and signals consultation about a possible regional service.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081'

4.2 Legal implications

"Legal Services' Commercial, Contracts & Capital Team can provide advice to Culture and Neighbourhood Services on setting up a shared service to music groups, as this project develops.

Greg Surtees, Legal Services – 37 1421"

4.3. Climate Change implications

"If the development of a regional service across Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland were to lead to an increase in the number of inter-library loans then this would result in an increase in carbon emissions due to transportation of goods between libraries. This area should be clarified when presenting the results of further research.

Louise Buckley, Graduate Project Officer (Climate Change), 372 293."

4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

"As indicated above, local consultation findings have emphasised the importance of such a service in enabling local choirs and groups to continue to produce music and drama events that enable local residents to participate in community events of interest to them. The establishment of a regional resource is an option that if financially viable and appropriately accessible, would continue to ensure existing

need for such material is met. The outcome of the feasibility study and proposal for decision regarding the future of the service will determine more detailed equality implications for consideration. Given the range of subscribers to the service, those using and likely to use the service cover all protected characteristics.

Irene Kszyk, Corporate Equalities Lead, ext. 374147.”

4.5 Other Implications

None.

5. Background information and other papers:

None.

6. Summary of appendices:

None.

7. Is this a private report?

No.