

## **Rushey Mead petition background**

The Transforming Neighbourhood Services programme is scoped to identify different ways of organising how services are delivered within the neighbourhoods of the city of Leicester, with a view to reducing the costs of delivery by around 30% while maintaining the quality of the services.

The programme approach is to consider each of 6 geographical areas in turn to identify methods by which the service delivery model can be transformed through opportunities to co-locate services and make better use of the assets available.

The services in scope of the programme are:

- Neighbourhood Services including libraries and community centres
- Leicester Adult Skills & Learning Service
- Neighbourhood based customer services
- Youth Centres

The petition has arisen from a decision following consultation which puts which saves 30% of the running costs of a range of council buildings in the North East of the city. The area covers Belgrave, Rushey Mead, Troon, Humberstone & Hamilton and Thurncourt wards.

The background to the project is that a saving is necessary due to severe reductions in the budget available to the city council from the government. The principle behind the exercise is to prioritise the protection of local services offered rather than focussing on retaining all of the council buildings in the area.

The North East is the fourth area of the city which has been subject to the process within the Transforming Neighbourhood Services project. In each area, an initial public engagement period is undertaken before proposals are developed for consultation.

The public engagement exercise was undertaken in the North East area between 6 June – 17 July 2016. The aim was to show the need for change and to gather suggestions from the local community about possible ways in which solutions to the financial challenge can be met.

Proposals for the north east area were developed based on feedback from the engagement findings and service and buildings data collected. A consultation was held on the proposals between 12 September – 23 October 2016. There were 1,436 completed questionnaires and around over 700 people have attended meetings.

The decision for the two buildings in the Rushey Mead ward, Rushey Mead Library and Rushey Mead Recreation Centre is as follows:

“...to combine library services and community activities at the Rushey Mead Recreation Centre. Investment will be made to reconfigure the layout of the building to free up more space.

Rushey Mead Recreation Centre

- Invest in the building to free up additional space
- Work with stakeholders to combine staffed library services and community activities at this centre

- Install library self-service equipment

#### Rushey Mead Library

- Move library services in to Rushey Mead Recreation Centre
- Explore a range of options for disposal of Rushey Mead Library including lease, sale or demolition.”

The rationale for the proposal is that the buildings are very close to one another and that by refocussing services, it is possible to bring them together in a single building.