

Impact Assessment

Budget Reductions - Library Service 2023/24



06/01/2023

Reference: 4902-6855-7153-6342

Impact Assessments (IA) are a process of assessing how our proposals and decisions might impact upon different types of people and communities and developing proposals in line with relevant legislation.

This is a legal requirement, and ensures the Council considers key legislation, including Equalities, Welsh language, Future Generations, Socio-economic Duty and Risk when developing proposals.

It will also help the Council make the best possible decisions for the people of Powys.

1. Proposal Information

Author name	Catherine Richards, Professional Lead - Arts and Culture
Head of service	Jennifer Ashton, Head of Community Services
Portfolio holder	David Selby, portfolio holder for Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys
Proposal title	Budget Reductions - Library Service 2023/24
Description of proposal	To reduce the library book budget from £176,770 to £120,000. This will help to support the saving targets for the Council. The reduction in the budget will have an impact on the service and its users as a reduced range of reading materials will be purchased. However, through careful selection a range of materials can still be purchased. A reduction in the numbers of books purchased will result in slower circulation of stock around the branches.

2. Savings and Consultation requirements

Profile of savings delivery

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027+	Total savings
£0	£56,770	£0	£0	£0	£0	£56,770

Further information

It is proposed that £56,770 will be removed from the Library book budget.

Consultation requirements

Consultation required?	No
Justification	Consultation is not required as the proposed savings still enable reading materials to be purchased for the library service.

3. Impact on other service areas, geographical areas and data protection

3a. Impact on other service areas

3b. Impact on geographical locations

The entire county

3c. Data protection impact assessment

Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals?	No
Is Powys County Council the data controller?	No
Further information	

4. Impact on Vision 2025

4a. The economy

Impact	None
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4b. Health and care

Impact	None
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4c. Learning and skills

	The library service supports learners of all ages and abilities through provision of quality resources and help with accessing and using those resources, including independent study space, and providing a location for 1-1 tuition and courses. 76% of respondents in the adult library
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Impact	<p>user survey said that the library has helped them to learn something new, and 48% said it helps them with education. Reducing the amount of library books will have the following impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potentially a reduced range of reading material in Welsh/English • could reduce opportunities to provide literacy and learning • potential impact on e-resources, as part of the literacy and learning offer which the Library Service is trying to promote to support its Digital Strategy. E-resources are particularly important as the Council has removed the mobile libraries, and is promoting the digital offer to those who cannot visit branches • slower circulation of stock around branches
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	<p>Carefully consider new stock selection to ensure a good range of books for all customers.</p> <p>“Access to Research” is an online service available through public library computers only, providing access to a huge UK collection of academic articles and papers (the terms of the agreement means that it is not available remotely via the library web pages). This is heavily used by researchers in Powys – usage statistics show that Powys was 5th in May and 3rd in June 2016, for usage, across the whole of the UK. Ancestry. com and FindmyPast local and family history online resources are similarly only freely available from library computers.</p> <p>Volunteer opportunities allow people to learn, practice and share skills locally in their community.</p> <p>Staff and volunteers provide sessions such as 1-1 computer support, coding, family learning through storytimes, lego clubs, homework support etc.</p> <p>Literacy is developed for all ages e.g., through rhythm and rhyme and storytimes to book clubs and poetry groups and reading aloud for adults sessions.</p>
Mitigated impact rating	Good

4d. Residents and communities

Impact	<p>The reduction in the book budget which also supports e-resources, could impact on the literacy and learning offer which the Library Service is trying to promote to support the Cultural Services Digital Strategy. E-resources are particularly important as the Council has removed the mobile libraries and are promoting the e-resources offer to those who cannot visit branches</p>
Impact rating	Unknown

Mitigation	Promote free e-resources and encourage residents and communities to utilise.
Mitigated impact rating	Good

4e. Evidence

<p>Adult library user survey data, Oct 2018</p> <p>Results of public and staff consultation, Feb – April 2019</p> <p>List of services provided by branch libraries</p> <p>Library management system membership and usage data</p> <p>“Connected and ambitions libraries” Welsh Public Library Standards framework 6, 2017 – 2020</p> <p>Libraries – bridging the digital divide. Libraries Wales 2016</p> <p>Analysis of library membership postcodes</p> <p>Analysis of library usage by road zones 2013</p>

5. Impact on well-being goals including Welsh language and equalities

5a. A prosperous Wales

Impact	None
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5b. A resilient Wales

Impact	None
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5c. A healthier Wales

Impact	Although a reduction in the library book budget is proposed, residents and communities will retain access to eighteen libraries throughout Powys with a wide range of published materials, e-resources and digital technology to help support and maximise mental well being, learning opportunities and social, interactive community spaces.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

5d. A Wales of cohesive communities

Impact	In order to maximise the library book budget available from April 2023, users and stakeholders will have the opportunity to share their views with
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	regards to preferred reading materials.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

5e. A globally responsible Wales

Impact	None
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5f. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Using Welsh

Impact	Welsh and English reading material will continue to be purchased as is currently the case through the library book budget.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Users will regularly be surveyed with regards to preferences of reading materials and language - which will highlight any changes or trends in certain areas.
Mitigated impact rating	Unknown

Promoting Welsh

Impact	The library service will continue to promote the use of the Welsh language and will provide materials and resources in both Welsh and English.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

Sports, Art & Recreation

Impact	The proposal could have an impact on the WPLS (Welsh Public Library Standard). However, Powys library service has never met the WPLS standard for recommended spend in order to provide an adequate service.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Carefully consider new stock selection to ensure a good range of books for all customers.
Mitigated impact	Good

rating

5g. A more equal Wales

Age

Impact

None

Disability

Impact

None

Gender Reassignment

Impact

None

Marriage or Civil Partnership

Impact

None

Race

Impact

None

Religion or Belief

Impact

None

Sex

Impact

None

Sexual Orientation

Impact

None

Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact

None

Socio-economic Duty

Impact	None
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5h. Evidence

<p>Adult library user survey data, Oct 18 data. Children and young people library user survey Nov 2019 Mobile library user survey data Oct 2018 Results of public consultation, 2019 List of services provided by branch libraries “Connected and Ambitious Libraries” Welsh Public Library Standards framework 6 2017-2020 Libraries – bridging the digital divide. Libraries Wales 2016 Impact of public libraries on the lives of older people. Society of Chief Librarians (Wales) 2014 Welsh Public Library Standards annual returns and reports</p>

6. Impact on key guiding principles & workforce

6a. Sustainable development principles

Long-term

Impact	The current library book fund is already below that expected by Welsh Government. In Powys' Welsh Public Library Standard Annual Assessment Report 2020/21 it was noted that: there has been a 33% decrease since 2017/18 in the materials budget. Although the materials budget is now one of the lowest in Wales per 1000 population, the loans for adult and children are in the second quartile. This suggests that the service is maximising its expenditure and choosing appropriate stock for its customers. Welsh language resource expenditure has been maintained and the service works well with local partners to actively promote its Welsh collection and Welsh learning. The member of staff responsible for stock selection is an active member of the Showcase Wales panel, which creates an annual list of the best Welsh writing in English as a checklist for library authorities.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Carefully consider new stock selection to ensure a good range of books for all customers. Continue to support and encourage users to access reading and research materials digitally.
Mitigated impact rating	Good

Collaboration

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Impact	Collaboration with other authorities to share reading material could be considered in the future - which will provide a wider range for residents and communities.
Impact rating	Unknown
Mitigation	Not specified

Involvement (including Communication and Engagement)

Impact	Users, residents and communities will be engaged so that the service is able to understand preferences for reading materials and resources where appropriate.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

Prevention

Impact	None
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Integration

Impact	It will be important for the service to involve others to maximise the library book budget available in the future.
Impact rating	Good
Mitigation	Not specified

6b. Impact on the workforce

Impact	None
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6c. Impact on payroll

Impact	None
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6d. Welsh language impact on staff

Impact	None
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6e. Impact on apprenticeships

Impact	
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6f. Evidence

Adult library user survey data, Oct 18 data.
 Children and Young People's survey Nov 2019
 Results of public and staff consultation, 2019
 List of services provided by branch libraries
 "Connected and Ambitious Libraries" Welsh Public Library Standards framework 6 2017-2020
 Libraries – bridging the digital divide. Libraries Wales 2016
 Impact of public libraries on the lives of older people. Society of Chief Librarians (Wales) 2014
 Trent staff data (Corporate Insight Centre)
 Welsh Public Library Standards return 20/21

7. Likelihood and risks

Risk 1

Description	Possible action by Welsh Government in line with Welsh Public Library Standards. Powys expenditure on books will reduce and remain below the median in Wales. Acquisitions targets will continue to be unmet as currently.				
Likelihood score	3	Impact score	2	Risk rating	6.0
Mitigation	The service will carefully consider new stock selections to ensure a good range of books for all customers. Officers will liaise with Welsh Government to access the impact on the Powys Welsh Public Library Standards return.				
Residual likelihood score	3	Residual impact score	2	Residual risk rating	6.0

8. Overall summary and judgement

Outline assessment

The proposed £56,770 reduction in the book budget will decrease in number and range of books able to be purchased for the Powys libraries stock. Careful consideration will be given to new stock selections to ensure a good range of books for all customers. The service will also continue to encourage and support users to access information digitally as appropriate.

9. Additional evidence

10. Ongoing monitoring arrangements and governance

Monitoring arrangements

Decision will be monitored and due attention paid to comments from Welsh Government following future Public Library Standards returns.

Review date

31/12/2023

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