

Equality and Rights Impact Assessment

2015-2018 Budget Summary Report

What budget option does this ERIA information relate to?

SfC ADD 6

Review of libraries opening hours

The budget option proposed is to review current opening hours by no longer opening the following 6 libraries on a Sunday afternoon; Muirhouse, Newington, Portobello, Oxfgangs, Wester Hailes and McDonald Road.

A further 5 libraries will be recategorised leading to a reduction in opening hours in:

Piershill, Corstorphine (from 51 to 42 hours) and Sighthill, Granton and Kirkliston (from 42 hours to 32 hours).

This will result in Piershill and Corstorphine no longer opening on Monday and Wednesday mornings, and Kirkliston, Sighthill and Granton Libraries will be closed all day on Thursdays and close on Saturday at 2pm. Granton and Kirkliston currently open till 5pm on Saturdays.

It should be noted a number of libraries already operate the proposed opening hours for the five libraries noted above.

The proposal has been part of the Council wide Budget Engagement process and the views expressed have been taken into account during the development of this specific budget proposal.

Initial analysis of feedback has noted support for library services, a number of respondents raising concerns about reducing current hours, and support for maintaining investment in libraries. Kirkliston, Granton and Corstorphine proposed changes in opening hours were also mentioned specifically.

The mitigating measures (recommendations) have been prepared in response to these concerns.

What are the main impacts of this option on rights?

Health: Less access to library as information resource, events and activities, fewer cross service health promotion events

Legal security: Less access to information and resources

Education & learning: Less access to learning resources, information and classes either singularly or as part of a community group, groups of interest or as family members

What are the main impacts of this option on equality?

There is a possibility that people with disabilities will be adversely affected, especially people with visual impairments and disabilities which require access to assistive technology and staff support to access the facilities.

The change in library opening hours will impact on access to library services for individuals with

protected characteristics including:

- recreational reading and listening material
- information resources
- diversionary activities and events for children and young people
- community language book groups
- womens book groups
- newspapers and computer and internet access for low income families
- access to stock and software in community languages (especially in McDonald Road and Muirhouse Libraries)

What are the main recommendations to address either the positive or negative impacts?

- extra tailored sessions for visually impaired people to support easier access to assistive technology and devices across libraries at other times of the week
- running additional events and children's events on a Saturday
- moving book groups and other activities to weektime sessions
- active promotion of resources and children's activities online via the library website
- Library services will provide additional staff supported sessions to promote libraries online information resources, ebooks and membership services
- Customers will be signposted to online resources which are available 24/7
- continued free access to computers in Kirkliston neighbourhood office and Gate 55
- promotion of free computer access in Royston Wardieburn community centre for Granton residents
- more activities on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, signposting to Library Link and Housebound services, book drop service and tailored support to access more library services online
- In addition, library visitors and customers will be encouraged to use the 5 libraries during their new opening hours and to access other neighbouring library services which are open across the city on Monday and Wednesday mornings, Thursdays and Tuesday evenings

Sign Off (print name and position and contact details)

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Carbon Impact Assessment Template

BUDGET OPTION (number/title/details)		Sfc		
LEAD OFFICER (name and contact details)		Martina McChrystal		
To record your assessment put an X in the appropriate columns below.				
COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS	IMPACTS			NOTES
	↓	↑	↔	
WASTE to landfill	x			
BUILDINGS energy usage	x			
INFRASTRUCTURE energy usage			x	
TRANSPORT fuel consumption			x	

↓ = *anticipated decrease in emissions*

↑ = *anticipated increase in emissions*

↔ = *no change anticipated*