



The 'Better Decision Making' tool has been designed to help you consider the impact of your proposal on the health and wellbeing of communities, the environment, and local economy. It draws upon the priorities set out in our Council Plan and will help us to provide inclusive and discrimination-free services by considering the equalities and human rights implications of the decisions we make. The purpose of this tool is to avoid decisions being made in isolation, and to encourage evidence-based decision making that carefully balances social, economic and environmental factors, helping us to become a more responsive and resilient organisation.

The Better Decision Making tool should be used when proposing new projects, services, policies or strategies, or significant amendments to them. The tool should be completed at the earliest opportunity, ideally when you are just beginning to develop a proposal. However, it can be completed at any stage of the decision-making process. If the tool is completed just prior to the Executive, it can still help to guide future courses of action as the proposal is implemented.

The Better Decision Making tool must be attached as an annex to Executive reports. A brief summary of your findings should be reported in the One Planet Council / Equalities section of the report itself.

Guidance to help you complete the assessment can be obtained by hovering over the relevant question.

Please complete all fields. If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

Introduction

Service submitting the proposal:	Communities and Equalities
Name of person completing the assessment:	Andrew Laslett
Job title:	Strategic Services Manager
Directorate:	Children, Education and Communities
Date Completed:	30/09/2019
Date Approved (form to be checked by head of service):	7/10/2019 by Charlie Croft

Section 1: What is the proposal?

1.1	Name of the service, project, programme, policy or strategy being assessed? Future Library Investment Programme (FLIP)
1.2	What are the main aims of the proposal? The programme aims to deliver the future vision for York's library service, by investing £4m to create two new Library Learning Centres and move stand alone Gateway Libraries into co-located community facilities.
1.3	What are the key outcomes? Create two new Library Learning Centres in Acomb and Clifton to provide larger buildings for Explore to increase income streams to reduce the overall running cost of each existing building. The shift from stand alone Gateway Libraries to co-location is aimed to deliver more sustainable community libraries embeded with other community partners resulting in more users, increased opening hours and better integration into the local community.

Section 2: Evidence

2.1	What data / evidence is available to support the proposal and understand its likely impact? (e.g. hate crime figures, obesity levels, recycling statistics) Explore have provided evidence that supports both larger Library Learning Centres and co-location of Gateway Libraries to demonstrate the outcomes mentioned at 1.3. For example the creation of The Centre@Burnholme has increased income streams and therefore reduced running costs, whilst increasing visitor numbers and book issues. The co-location of New Earswick Library into the Folk Hall has also evidence the outcomes expected from 1.3.
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2.2	<p>What public / stakeholder consultation has been undertaken and what were the findings?</p> <p>A public consultation on the draft future library vision was carried out in 2017/18 and the key findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - residents expressed a clear aspiration to enhance the role of libraries as community hubs through improvements to buildings and facilities. - a support for co-location which would create more opening hours and links to other community amenities. - Non users indicated that reading cafe's, better information and more events would encourage them to use the libraries <p>The full consultation results and methodology can be seen in a separate report.</p>
2.3	<p>Are there any other initiatives that may produce a combined impact with this proposal? (e.g. will the same individuals / communities of identity also be impacted by a different project or policy?)</p> <p>This programme of work will continue to work with Ward Councillors, Local Area Teams and Local Area Coordination to ensure projects that use Libraries to reach out to communities are kept up to date and views sought during the options appraisal stage and implementation.</p>



Section 3: Impact on One Planet principles

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on residents or staff.
This section relates to the impact of your proposal on the ten One Planet principles.

For 'Impact', please select from the options in the drop-down menu.
If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'.

Equity and Local Economy

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.1	Impact positively on the business community in York?	Positive	The investment to create larger Library Learning Centres (Acomb and Clifton) will provide creative opportunities for community minded businesses to co-locate in the library premises
3.2	Provide additional employment or training opportunities in the city?	Positive	Explore will be able to increase volunteer opportunities and training opportunities through an increase in room space, especially in the areas of need.
3.3	Help improve the lives of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or underrepresented groups?	Positive	Libraries are safe and welcoming places with information professional that can sign post individuals for help and advice. Investment and co-location is aimed to increase visitor numbers to libraries either as a main or secondary purpose. More space will also provide more opportunities for partners and agencies to offer expert help.

Health & Happiness

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.4	Improve the physical health or emotional wellbeing of residents or staff?	Positive	The investment in Acomb and Clifton will provide larger buildings with new spaces that can be used for a variety of ways including; physical activity, wellbeing, adult education sessions for example.
3.5	Help reduce health inequalities?	Positive	Co-location of Gateway libraries could include working with doctors surgeries, so joint outcomes with GP's would be enhanced.
3.6	Encourage residents to be more responsible for their own health?	Positive	The vision for our library service is to increase reading cafes. This increases the opportunity for Explore to educate and send positive health messages in the deliver of the cafes within libraries.
3.7	Reduce crime or fear of crime?	Positive	The inclusion of free public wi-fi in all libraries does provide a real opportunity to engage young people who may be at risk of antisocial behaviour and divert through alternative activities or just simply using the reading cafes to hang out.
3.8	Help to give children and young people a good start in life?	Positive	The library service has a specialist lead officer that focuses on outcomes for child and young people. This investment programme will provide better facilities and engagement opportunities.

Culture & Community

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.9	Help bring communities together?	Positive	The very purpose of the vision to co-locate libraries with other community organisations will provide more opportunities for colaberation at a community level.
3.10	Improve access to services for residents, especially those most in need?	Positive	By placing libraries even more at the heart of communities and increasing opening hours will bring even more external services to use libraries as a front door to engage communities.
3.11	Improve the cultural offerings of York?	Positive	The more flexible spaces that are created in libraries offer more creative ways of offering cultural activities and events.
3.12	Encourage residents to be more socially responsible?	Positive	By increasing visitors to libraries through the deliver of this vision, will extend the reach of social responsibility messaging that the libraries already take part in.

Zero Carbon and Sustainable Water

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.13	Minimise the amount of energy we use and / or reduce the amount of energy we pay for? E.g. through the use of low or zero carbon sources of energy?	Positive	Each new building that is created, is an opportunity to reduce the energy use and will be factored into the options appraisal for deciding on which site should be selected.
3.14	Minimise the amount of water we use and/or reduce the amount of water we pay for?	Neutral	Larger library buildings will use more water, but any additional use will look to be offset by recycling and working with tenants to focus on minimising water use.

Zero Waste

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.15	Reduce waste and the amount of money we pay to dispose of waste by maximising reuse and/or recycling of materials?	Positive	The vision does look to create more reading cafes and this is where waste could potentially increase, however recycling and composting will be enhanced to ensure a positive impact can be made.

Sustainable Transport

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.16	Encourage the use of sustainable transport, such as walking, cycling, ultra low emission vehicles and public transport?	Positive	New locations for libraries will ensure public transport routes are adequate and cycling and walking from communities is encouraged.
3.17	Help improve the quality of the air we breathe?	Neutral	

Sustainable Materials

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.18	Minimise the environmental impact of the goods and services used?	Positive	The reading cafes will ensure recyclable coffee cups and other food containers. A focus on using as little non-recyclable materials as possible is the aim.

Local and Sustainable Food

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.19	Maximise opportunities to support local and sustainable food initiatives?		

Land Use and Wildlife

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.20	Maximise opportunities to conserve or enhance the natural environment?	Unsure	This will be assessed during the options appraisals for future library sites.
3.21	Improve the quality of the built environment?	Positive	The majority of the library asset estate could be improved and this is a real opportunity to improve appearance, light etc and feel of the buildings.
3.22	Preserve the character and setting of the historic city of York?	Neutral	There is unlikely to be any impact in this area.
3.23	Enable residents to enjoy public spaces?	Positive	This is a key outcome for all new libraries to increase residents and communities cohesion allowing library spaces (indoors and outdoors) to be as safe and welcoming as possible.

Does your proposal?		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
3.40	Additional space to comment on the impacts		



Section 4: Impact on Equalities and Human Rights

Please summarise any potential positive and negative impacts that may arise from your proposal on staff or residents. This section relates to the impact of your proposal on **advancing equalities and human rights** and should build on the impacts you identified in the previous section.

For 'Impact', please select from the options in the drop-down menu.
If you wish to enter multiple paragraphs in any of the boxes, hold down 'Alt' before hitting 'Enter'

Equalities

Will the proposal **adversely impact** upon 'communities of identity'?
Will it **help advance equality** or **foster good relations** between people in 'communities of identity'?

		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
4.1	Age	Neutral	
4.2	Disability	Positive	New buildings will provide better accessibility with appropriate ancillary facilities e.g. changing places
4.3	Gender	Neutral	
4.4	Gender Reassignment	Neutral	
4.5	Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	
4.6	Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	
4.7	Race	Neutral	
4.8	Religion or belief	Neutral	
4.9	Sexual orientation	Neutral	
4.10	Carer	Neutral	
4.11	Lowest income groups	Neutral	
4.12	Veterans, Armed forces community	Neutral	

Human Rights	
Consider how a human rights approach is evident in the proposal	

		Impact	What are the impacts and how do you know?
4.13	Right to education	Neutral	
4.14	Right not to be subjected to torture, degrading treatment or punishment	Neutral	
4.15	Right to a fair and public hearing	Neutral	
4.16	Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Neutral	
4.17	Freedom of expression	Neutral	
4.18	Right not to be subject to discrimination	Neutral	
4.19	Other Rights	Neutral	

4.20	Additional space to comment on the impacts





Section 5: Planning for Improvement

5.1	What have you changed in order to improve the impact of the proposal on the One Planet principles? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)
	Whenever the opportunity arises to create new buildings the choice of the location and type of structure and green credentials can all be taken into account. This programme will ensure these elements are considered during the options appraisal stage.

5.2	What have you changed in order to improve the impact of the proposal on equalities and human rights? (please consider the questions you marked either mixed or negative, as well as any additional positive impacts that may be achievable)
	None

5.3	Going forward, what further evidence or consultation is needed to ensure the proposal delivers its intended benefits? (e.g. consultation with specific vulnerable groups, additional data)
	Each proposal either for a new library or a move to a co-location solution will be fully consulted on. Users of the service and local residents will be asked to have their say and able to influence the solution.

5.4	Please record any outstanding actions needed to maximise benefits or minimise negative impacts in relation to this proposal? (Expand / insert more rows if needed)
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Action	Person(s)	Due date
Ensure that consultation scoping captures as appropriate all communities of identity	Andy Laslett	End of 2020

In the One Planet / Equalities section of your Executive report, please briefly summarise the changes you have made (or intend to make) in order to improve the social, economic and environmental impact of your proposal.