

Cabinet

Monday 5 November 2018

10.00 am Council Chamber, Shire Hall



To: The Members of the Cabinet

Cllr M Chilcott (Vice-Chair), Cllr D Fothergill (Chairman), Cllr D Hall, Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr F Nicholson, Cllr F Purbrick and Cllr J Woodman

All Somerset County Council Members are invited to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees.

Issued By Scott Wooldridge, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk and Monitoring Officer
- 26 October 2018

For further information about the meeting, please contact Michael Bryant or Scott Wooldridge or 01823 357628 democraticservices@somerset.gov.uk

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers



RNID typetalk

AGENDA

Item Cabinet - 10.00 am Monday 5 November 2018

1 **Library Service Redesign: Changes to the way library services are delivered**
(Pages 3 - 22)

To consider the report.

Libraries Service Redesign Programme 2018

Cabinet report - overview and context

5th November 2018

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What this presentation covers ...

- Statutory / legal context
- Overview of recommendations
- Overview of evidence and information to consider:
 - Results from the consultation exercise
 - Results from the analysis of needs
 - Information about reasonable access
 - Equalities Impact Assessment
 - The availability of financial resources

Statutory duty and legal issues

- SCC has a statutory duty to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient' library service.
 - This does not mean everyone has to live next to a library building – service can be provided in different ways;
 - We are expected to make decisions that enable us to live within our means – but there has to be an underlying strategic purpose.
 - We must consider feedback from the consultation, and take account of the needs assessment, access considerations, equalities impact and value for money.
- It is SCC's responsibility to provide the service – we should not rely on Community Library Partnerships.
 - Cabinet must focus on the sufficiency of other means of delivery – mobile and outreach services.
 - Impact of the 'worst case' scenario must be considered.

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Overview of recommendations

- Retain 19 libraries to be operated by the County Council
 - Shepton Mallet – alternative location to be investigated
 - Cheddar, Martock, Langport, Ilminster – costs to reduce
- Seek community library partnerships for 15 libraries
 - if these can't be established, libraries would close and services would be provided in other ways
- Additional library outreach services
- Support for community library partnerships
- Management restructure
- Develop approach for donations & philanthropic giving

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Overview of recommendations

<i>Libraries that would continue to be operated by the County Council:</i>	<i>Libraries where the County Council would seek to establish a Community Library Partnership, or close the library if this cannot be achieved:</i>
Bridgwater Burnham-on-Sea Chard Cheddar Crewkerne Dulverton Frome Glastonbury Ilminster Langport Martock Minehead Shepton Mallet Taunton (town centre) Wellington Wells Williton Wincanton Yeovil (town centre)	Bishops Lydeard Bruton Castle Cary Highbridge Milborne Port Nether Stowey North Petherton Porlock* Priorswood (Taunton) Somerton South Petherton Street Sunningdale (Yeovil) Watchet Wiveliscombe

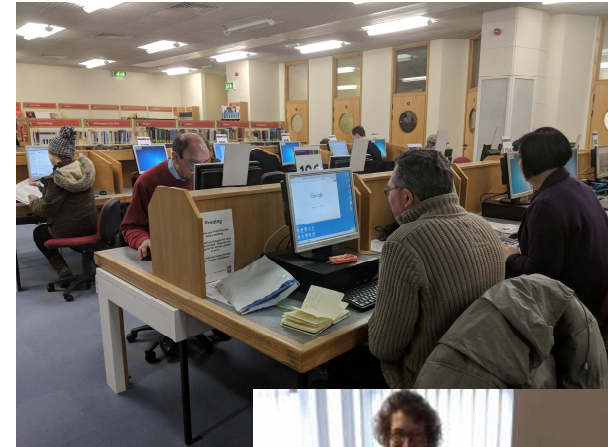
* *Porlock is already operating as a community library*

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Proposed delivery models

- Council-run library buildings
- Community Library Partnerships
- Library Outreach Services
- Mobile Library Services
- Digital Library Services
- Home Library Service



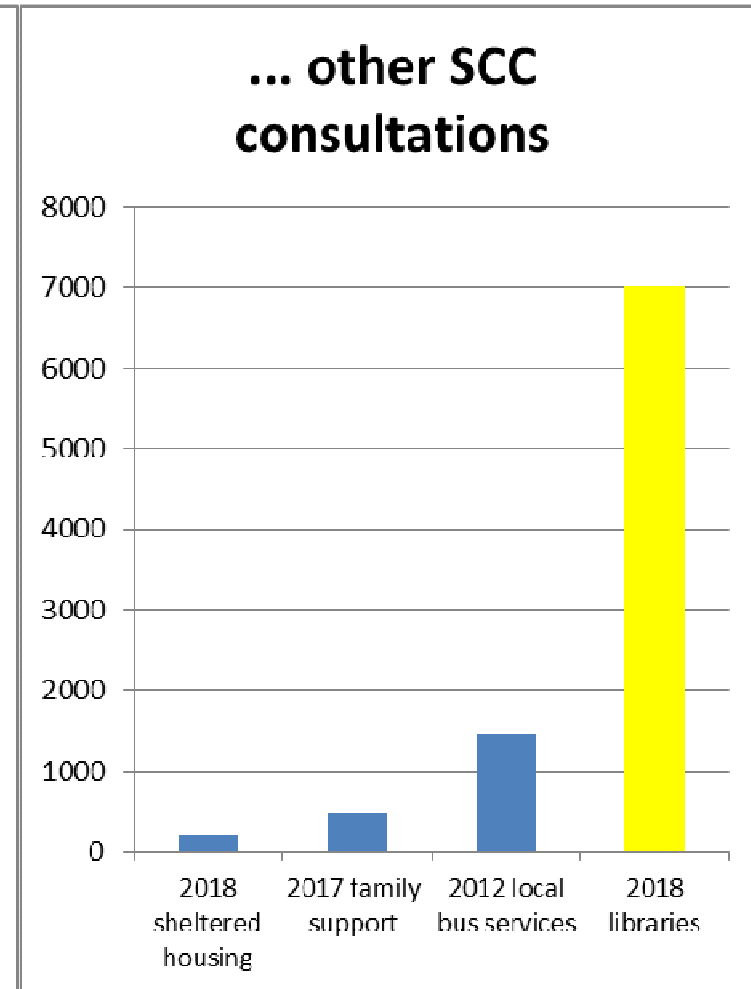
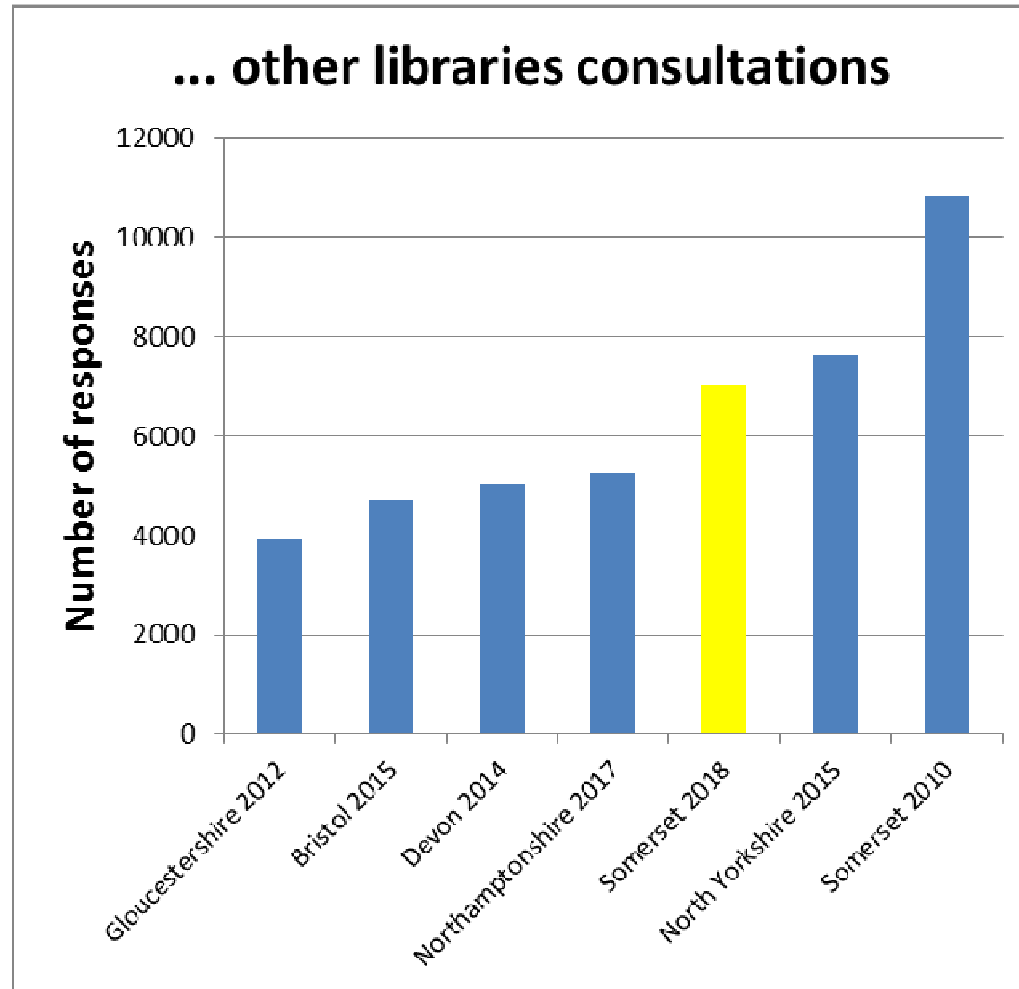
Overview of the consultation

- Ran for 19 weeks from 29th January to 13th June. Responses mainly through questionnaires (paper and online), as well as 19 drop-in events and other channels.
- Options for change proposed for 22 libraries.
- Consultation extended in mid-March to allow more time and provide extra information.
- Wide range of supporting information provided on website and in Libraries
- Very significant and sophisticated level of engagement by some stakeholder groups and individuals.
- Widely promoted, specific groups engaged.

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Level of response compared to ...



Feedback from the consultation

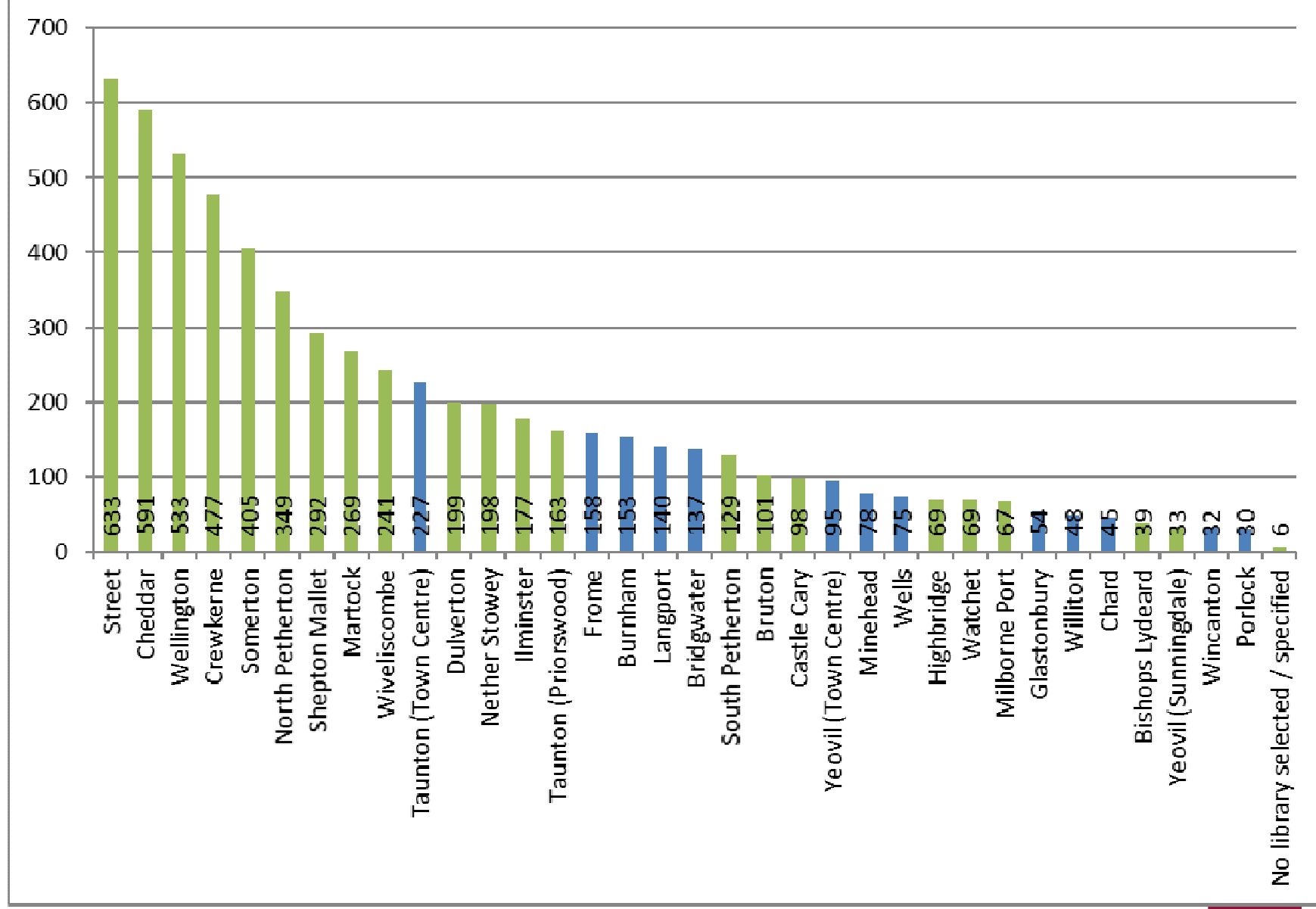
- People were strongly opposed to changes, particularly the potential closure of library buildings.
- Preference for Community Library Partnership solutions over mobile or outreach services.
- Libraries are valued – for communities and individuals:
 - Loneliness and social isolation
 - Children’s education, instilling a love of reading, study facilities
 - Public internet access and other IT facilities
- Difficulty, cost and unreliability of public transport; being able to walk to the library is important.
- Lots of suggestions for alternative ways of making savings.
- Many highlighted concerns about population/housing growth.
- Mixed views on the use of volunteers.

... + much more besides

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Consultation response levels



Meeting local needs

Population

- Populations – current and potential future growth
- Considered ‘settlement hierarchy’ planning designations

Social need

- Income / employment deprivation
- Health & education
- Social isolation & digital inclusion risks
- Consultation feedback about need

Usage

- Libraries that are well used are needed.

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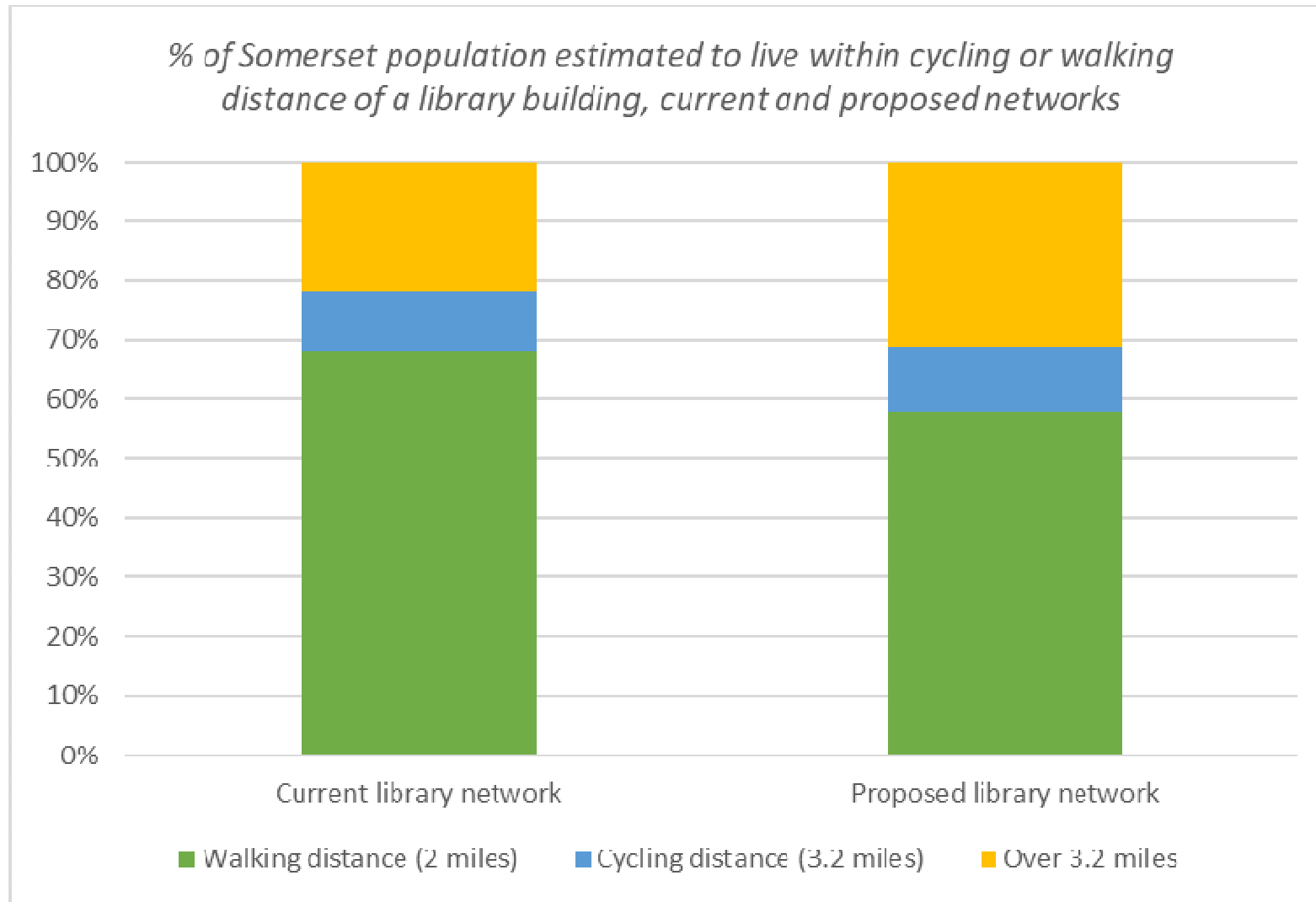
Providing reasonable access

- Most people in Somerset either walk or drive to get to a library.
- Public transport is important for those without access to cars
- Cycling is possible for some (but not all) library users
- Many people combine library visits with a trip into town
- Recommendations provide 'reasonable access' by:
 - Maximising walking distance access
 - Reasonable driving times to library buildings
 - Libraries at the centre of public transport networks
 - Considering affordability of access
 - Considering travel patterns and shopping habits
 - Alternative services provided locally

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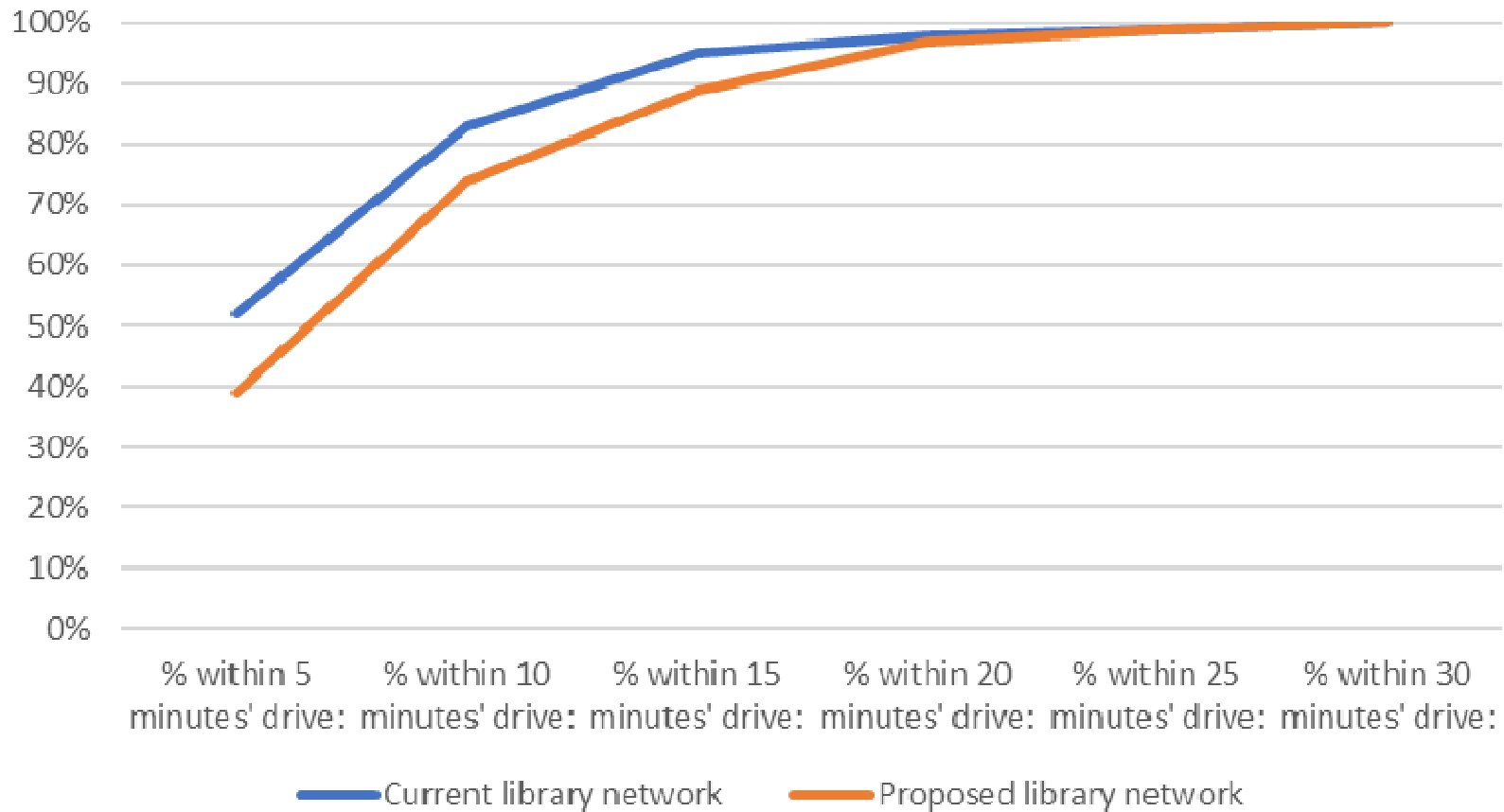
Providing reasonable access – walking



** 2 mile walking distance is the statutory (primary) school walking distance*

Providing reasonable access – driving

Estimated driving times: % of population estimated to be within different driving times of a library building, current network and proposed



The impact of proposals: Equalities

- If libraries close, impacts are likely to be more significant for some people:
 - Older people
 - Children – under 5s, primary school children, older children and young people using libraries to study
 - Disabled people
 - People on maternity or shared paternity leave
 - People in rural areas
 - People on low incomes
- Transferring libraries to Community Library Partnerships could also have equalities impacts, and there are impacts for staff working in the service.
- Appendix 4 contains full detail

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The impact of proposals: Equalities

- Equalities impacts should be considered rigorously
- This means:
 - Question any of the impacts or information to improve understanding
 - Understand the actions that have been identified to mitigate the impacts
 - Use the information in Appendix 4 alongside other information to inform your decision
 - Consider how the proposals, including the steps to mitigate impacts on equality groups, will impact on the equality outcomes in the public sector equality duty

Other impacts and implications

- Sustainability
 - Impact on travel patterns
 - Impact on town centres
- Health and Safety
 - Transfer of responsibilities to community partners
 - Proposed reduction in management capacity
 - Staff wellbeing
- Privacy & data protection
- Health and well-being
 - Social isolation and loneliness
 - Personal development opportunities

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Financial implications – costs and savings

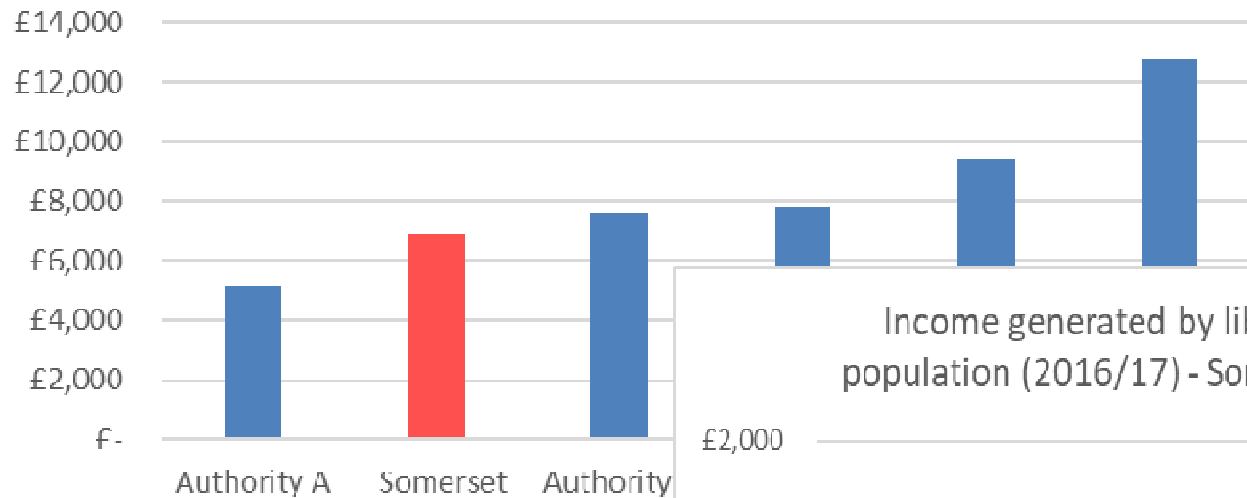
- Recommendations would deliver an ongoing saving of approximately £345,000 per annum:
 - Around £270,000 through the transfer or closure of library buildings
 - Around £75,000 from other savings
 - Net saving includes provision for ongoing support for Community Libraries (up to £61,000)
- One-off costs estimated at c. £445,000
 - Mainly to support the development, agreement and implementation of Community Library Partnerships.
 - Funded from existing budgets, Capital Receipts Flexibilities and some other sources.
- Costs and savings will vary, depending on success in establishing Community Library Partnerships

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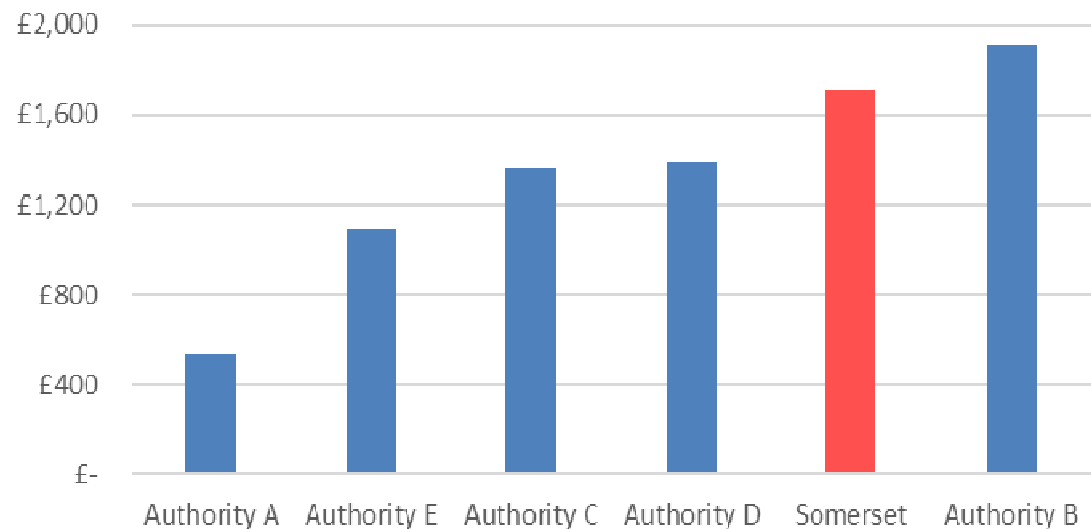


Financial implications – Value for Money

Net operational cost of library service per 1,000 population (2016/17) - Somerset & library services in similar counties



Income generated by library service per 1,000 population (2016/17) - Somerset & similar counties



Future budget for the library service

- Implementing the recommendations would reduce the library service budget from £4.020m to £3.675m

