Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

LLA Asset Disinvestment New Pitsligo Library

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1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

LLA (Live Life Aberdeenshire) are in the process of declaring several property assets surplus to service requirements and stated intention to disinvest in these facilities to meet overall budget savings from 2023-24 onwards. New Pitsligo Library, 79 Highstreet, New Pitsligo, AB43 6NH is a property which is being considered for LLA Service Disinvestment.

Delivery of library services is not reliant on a standalone/dedicated building. Delivery of library services is not reliant on a standalone/dedicated building. LLA is committed to providing excellent Library services to the communities across Aberdeenshire through alternative methods and mechanisms such as the use of click and collect and doorstep delivery services, outreach, and the use of innovative online and digital library services.

Currently, the facility is open 5 hours a week. Staffed by a 15 hrs post which is based at this site. The post delivers and supports outreach and events in the community. In the period 2022/2023, 2826 attended 96 events. Events mainly focussed on preschool and primary school-aged children. Other events which are not part of the library programme include a Climate Week Northeast session with 46 attendees. These numbers are not unique participants and may include repeat visits. The facility also provided digital access with 37 hours recorded over the year 2022/2023. The Service offers click and collect services at this time.

In 2022/2023 the population of the town was approximately 1100. There are a total of 5910 visits recorded in this year. With 3,216 books issued to 361 individual active users with an average of 160 active users per month. 33% of the population are active users.

The facility also provides a venue for a range of non-library activities such as community council meetings, elected member surgery, Community Learning and Development adult learning activity, and informal youth work setting. Through a robust engagement, it was evident that the facility was well used as a "Community centre" due to the lack of alternative affordable spaces in the community.

The costs to the service from in 2022/23 total £27,548.00.

We have a recent Condition and Suitability report for the library building. The property continues to fulfil its design purpose and has been assessed as 'B – Satisfactory' overall, several elements are showing signs of age/wear and require investment in years 1 and 2 to prevent further deterioration (namely the windows and decoration). Total investment required to address the above maintenance and remedial works are estimated, at Quarter 3 2024, as being £12,400 with this detailed within Part 6 of this document. Of this, £2,400 is categorised as critical year 1 work, with £10,000 categorised as essential year 2 work.

During screening 8 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 5 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing
- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Town Centres First

In total there are 4 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 16 negative impacts, of these negative impacts, 17 have been mitigated and 1 cannot be mitigated satisfactorily.

A detailed action plan with 7 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by avril.nicol@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	Yes
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO_2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy impact on inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	Yes

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Climate Change and Sustainability	Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Health Inequalities	All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated
Town Centre's First	No Negative Impacts Identified

4. Childrens' Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

4.1. Wellbeing Indicators

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Safe		Yes		
Healthy			Yes	
Achieving			Yes	
Nurtured			Yes	
Active		Yes		
Respected		Yes		
Responsible		Yes		
Included		Yes		

4.2. Rights Indicators

UNCRC Indicators upheld by this activity / proposal / policy	Article 17 - Access to information; mass media Article 28 - Right to education Article 31 - Leisure, play and culture

4.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Achieving	Potential impact on access to educational resources including books, digital access and printing services for children of all ages whether accessing libraries through childcare, nursery. schools, parents and carers or independently for self study.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Ongoing work with library staff, partners and users to ensure access to library services including outreach services in the community using other local buildings, door to door services, click and collect services as well as looking at access/ green transport routes to other LLA library facilities in neighbouring towns.
	Timescale	Current - Offering alternative services and have identified other potential facilities Medium Term - Develop and/or expand alternative services including outreach in alternative location. Review school library service within offer and address gaps particularly for young people with ASN and literacy requirements.

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Achieving	Potential impact on access to educational resources including books, digital access and printing services for children of all ages whether accessing libraries through childcare, nursery. schools, parents and carers or independently for self study.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	As above ensure access to library services through development, expansion of or promoting alternative means. Ensure library services are available through or developed in school network. Support to group to identify and access alternative premises.
	Timescale	Current - Offering alternative services such as click and collect or door to door and have identified other potential facilities for outreach services. Medium Term - Develop and/or expand alternative services including outreach in alternative location. Short/Med Term - Offer support to user groups to access alternative services and/or facilities
Healthy	Potential impact on access to information and resources around health and wellbeing for both children accessing directly and to support families	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Ongoing work with library staff, partners and users to ensure access to library services including outreach services in the community using other local buildings, door to door services, click and collect services as well as looking at access routes to other LLA library facilities in neighbouring towns.
	Timescale	Current - Offering alternative services and have identified other potential facilities Medium Term - Develop and/or expand alternative services including outreach in alternative location.. Long term - work with partner services and other partners to look at access to neighbouring facilities including green transport routes

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Nurtured	Impact on family learning opportunities from experiencing learning together to specific learning around nurturing e.g. nutrition, reading together	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	We will continue to work with schools, partners and community groups, to ensure there is equitable services offered in the local area through use of other facilities, promotion of alternative services/opportunities, outreach services and/or developing services.
	Timescale	Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options need for outreach Short Term - Engage with and support user groups Medium Term - Develop/expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Facility user data and service usage data	Currently, the facility is open 5 hours a week. Staffed by a 15 hrs post which is based at this site. The post delivers and supports outreach and events in the community. In the period 2022/2023, 2826 attended 96 events. Events mainly focussed on preschool and primary school-aged children. Other events which are not part of the library programme include a Climate Week Northeast session with 46 attendees. These numbers are not unique participants and may include repeat visits. The facility also provided digital access with 37 hours recorded over the year 2022/2023. The Service offers click and collect services at this time. In 2022/2023 the population of the town was approximately 1100. There are a total of 5910 visits recorded in this year. With 3,216 books issued to 361 individual active users with an average of 160 active users per month. 33% of the population are active users.	This library is reactively well-used compared to similar-sized rural libraries open for similar hours.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Consultation	Consultation with Library Staff	Identified current activities/ services that are likely having a positive impact. These included - weekly craft sessions for younger children, book bugs, lego sessions and summer reading challenge. Access for social, cultural, digital and employability's was also mentioned for wider population and we can assume families could be in this group.	Very likely impact on children and families - Requires ongoing engagement and support to users to ensure children can access and exchange books as well as to identify and access or support development of alternative facilities/activities if required. We can assume changes to or continuation of other valued services will have an impact on children's wellbeing via families access to services - employability, digital, cultural so attention to these wider services need to be included.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Community Engagement 2024	There was strong representation from the community at two open sessions. The library service was valued for its core delivery and the residents indicated this supported learning for all ages, access to resources and professional support which they could not access without direct contact. They valued the physical contact with books as there was no longer a library space in the primary school as this had been converted to a place to support ASN. The community were aware and raised of the challenges associated with poverty such as lower literacy rates, and rural isolation including poor transport links and access to digital services. The engagement highlighted the desire for a community space which provides an accessible and warm space and can offer local services such as adult learning , youth work and support for mental health to a community which has a range of challenges in particular a level of deprivation and rural isolation.	Community Planning partners need to review community needs that are not core library service.
Internal Data	Education and Children's Services school data	New Pitsligo school received £33,075 of PEF in 22/23. This is due in part to the number of pupils with ASN. In this period 61% of primary 4 and 60% of primary 7 were recorded as ASN. The number of pupils expecting to achieve national standards were for reading in P1 45% and writing in P1 35%.Free school meals were claimed by 30% in P7.	There are some challenges in this community with Educational attainment

4.5. Information Gaps

Alternative venues and activities. We know there are other 'venues' locally but we haven't details on if these are fit for purpose.

4.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
Find out if service has this information. Carry out further engagement with users. We can also assume, whether families are currently accessing these services, or not, any changes could have a future impact on this population group.	November 2024

4.7. Accounting for the Views of Children and Young People

We aim to continue to deliver services for children and families including by direct alternative provision of core library services, by working with organisations working with children to use alternative venues or services for continuity and by ensuring family learning offer equity or development including through partnership working i.e. LLCPs. We will monitor this.

4.8. Promoting the Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Through ongoing provision of library services by alternative means or in alternative venues, work with and support to partner organisations including library users and service providers we aim to ensure ongoing wellbeing opportunities including family learning and social opportunities. This is in the context of understanding current user activity and impact, trends and ongoing monitoring.

4.9. Upholding Children and Young People's Rights

We aim to ensure that articles identified as potential being impacted, impacts are mitigated against including ensuring children have access to education through library services, culture through ongoing library services and information through ongoing library and education services.

4.10. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

The service has reasonable knowledge of user groups, usage type and potential impact on closing facility. The service has established alternative ways of accessing library services. The service has also established there are other facilities although further work is required to look at suitability should an outreach service be identified as necessary. The LLA Service recognise there will be impacts not directly related to Library Service Delivery and access. LLA and Communities Wellbeing and Partnerships are committed to working with other services to understand and support mitigation of indirect impact on children and families such as employability, digital and social opportunities.

5. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

5.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)			Yes	
Age (Older)			Yes	
Disability			Yes	
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

5.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income			Yes	
Low wealth			Yes	
Material deprivation			Yes	
Area deprivation			Yes	
Socioeconomic background			Yes	

5.3. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Age (Older)	Digital Access- Access to services could be impacted including other public services and alternative library services such as click and collect- Older people or less likely to have good digital literacies which is often required accessing information about services. Digital Literacies - Soft support offered through accessing library computers impact on older peoples digital literacies more broadly.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Promote and/or develop alternative services. Ongoing monitoring of access. - Access to click and collect or door to door and ICT support. - Explore and if required offer outreach library services in alternative venues. - Support individuals (including through work with partners) to access service by alternative means. including digital literacies support. -Taking a Place Planning approach work with library users. across services and partners to understand, promote, ensure access to or develop broader opportunities known to be accessed through libraries - e.g. digital skills, computer access, service access, social opportunities.
	Timescale	Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options need for outreach Short Term - Engage with and support user groups Medium Term - Develop/expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Age (Younger)	Potential reduced family learning opportunities. Children's access to books could be reduced - We know the facility is used for activities aimed at younger children - bookbugs, crafts and lego sessions.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Promote and/or develop alternative services. Ongoing monitoring of access. - Access to click and collect or door to door - Explore and if required offer outreach library services in alternative venues. - Support user groups/users to move premises and or access service by alternative means. -Taking a Place Planning approach work with library users. across services and partners to understand, promote, ensure access to or develop broader opportunities known to be accessed through libraries - e.g. digital skills, computer access, service access, social opportunities.
	Timescale	Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options need for outreach Short Term - Engage with and support user groups Medium Term - Develop/expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Disability	Those with disabilities could have barriers accessing alternative venues or means of service delivery including digital access.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Promote and/or develop alternative services. Ongoing monitoring of access. - Access to click and collect or door to door - Explore and if required offer outreach library services in alternative venues that these are accessible considering mobility and neurodiversity. - Engage with all users to ensure users with disabilities can access service by alternative means. -Taking a Place Planning approach work with library users. across services and partners to understand, promote, ensure access to or develop broader opportunities known to be accessed through libraries - e.g. digital skills, computer access, service access, social opportunities.
	Timescale	Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options need for outreach Short Term - Engage with and support user groups Medium Term - Develop/expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Area deprivation	Loss of public access building in rural area. Potential impact on access to services for the community.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Broad promotion of alternative services to the community as well as to current users, potential development of services in alternative spaces and monitoring ongoing usage for equity following transition/service disposal of the asset. Establish public access opportunities to alternative local buildings. Information to key community organisations including Community Councils and development trusts around asset transfer options including condition/running costs of building and support available for asset transfer process.
	Timescale	Current - Identified alternative public access facilities, key community organisations. Short Term - Promoting and developing alternative offer/services. Medium term - Engage with community organisation re asset disposal process and community options Med - Ongoing - Monitor usage/access following transition

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Low income	Less likely to have digital devices data, printers in the home or be able to buy books. Potential reduction in access to books, digital data, computers and printing and the associated impact of reduction in access to services, education and cultural, social, training or employment opportunities.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Through promotion of, and development of, alternative core library services as well as work with partners to ensure broader services are available or developed including affordable/free access to digital devices, data, education resources and social opportunities. Taking a Place Planning approach work with library users. across services and partners to understand, promote, ensure access to or develop broader opportunities
	Timescale	Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options need for outreach Short Term - Engage with and support user groups Medium Term - Develop/expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Low wealth	Less likely to have digital devices data, printers in the home or be able to buy books. Potential reduction in access to books, digital data, computers and printing and the associated impact of reduction in access to services, education and cultural, social or employment opportunities.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Through promotion of, and development of, alternative core library services as well as work with partners to ensure broader services are available or developed including affordable/free access to digital devices, data, education and training resources and social opportunities. Taking a Place Planning approach work with library users. across services and partners to understand, promote, ensure access to or develop broader opportunities.
	Timescale	Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options/ need for outreach alternative venue Short Term - Engage with and support individual users with transition – access to alt services/ signposting/ understand gaps Medium Term- Develop/expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services
Material deprivation	Access to resources including education, cultural, enterprise and employability, data, computers and warm spaces	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Ensure Access to alternative provision through promotion and development of alternative ways to access library services as well as services and opportunities delivered through other organisations and in partnership. Taking a Place Planning approach work with library users. across services and partners to understand, promote, ensure access to or develop broader opportunities.
	Timescale	Current - Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Socioeconomic background	Different Socio economic backgrounds are less likely to have home access to digital devices data, printers, books and a range of knowledge and skills in the home. Potential reduction in access to books, digital data, computers and printing and the associated impact of reduction in access to services, education and cultural, social or employment opportunities.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	: Through promotion of, and development of, alternative core library services as well as work with partners to ensure broader services are available or developed including affordable/free access to digital devices, data, education resources and social opportunities. Taking a Place Planning approach work with library users. across services and partners to understand, promote, ensure access to or develop broader opportunities.
	Timescale	Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options/ need for outreach alternative venue Short Term - Engage with and support individual users with transition – access to alt services/ signposting/ understand gaps Medium Term- Develop/expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services

5.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Engage Libraries Service User Consultation (Aberdeenshire Wide)	Although the majority of respondents used the library for borrowing books, magazines or papers respondents also reported using libraries for other things including attending events, using computers, wifi or printers, asking questions and as a place to study or work. Over half respondents agreed over time library services helped ... get information about, or access, other public services. Skills associated with or directly related to employability were also referenced such as improved reading skills, improved computer skills. 88% of respondents reported library use saved them money through accessing 'borrowing books, attending courses, using computers or wifi etc'	The range of and type of things people use library services for means changes to library services could have multiple impacts. E.g. Library services were widely seen to save money so changes could have a larger impact on those with low income. Library services are used to access other services again could impact more highly those on low income, or with disability who may be more likely to need access to other services. Library are used for training, education and employability meaning changes may impact chances of socio economic mobility. Libraries are used for digital access which may mean older people and people on low incomes may be more impacted by changes.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	New Pitsligo Library Usage Data 2022 -23	Currently, the facility is open 5 hours a week. Staffed by a 15 hrs post which is based at this site. The post delivers and supports outreach and events in the community. In the period 2022/2023, 2826 attended 96 events. Events mainly focussed on preschool and primary school-aged children. Other events which are not part of the library programme include a Climate Week Northeast session with 46 attendees. These numbers are not unique participants and may include repeat visits. The facility also provided digital access with 37 hours recorded over the year 2022/2023. The Service offers click and collect services at this time. In 2022/2023 the population of the town was approximately 1100. There are a total of 5910 visits recorded in this year. With 3,216 books issued to 361 individual active users with an average of 160 active users per month. 33% of the population are active users.	This library is reactively well-used compared to similar-sized rural libraries open for similar hours.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Consultation	Local Staff Consultation	Current activities/services that are likely having a positive impact. These included - weekly craft sessions for younger children, book bugs, lego sessions and summer reading challenge. Access for social, cultural, digital and employability's was also mentioned for wider population and we can assume families could be in this group.	Likely impact on children and families - Requires ongoing engagement and support to users to ensure children can access and exchange books as well as to identify and access or support development of alternative facilities/activities if required. We can assume changes to or continuation of other valued services will have an impact on children's wellbeing via families access to services - employability, digital, cultural so attention to these wider services need to be included.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Community Engagement 2024	There was strong representation from the community at two open sessions. The library service was valued for its core delivery and the residents indicated this supported learning for all ages, access to resources and professional support which they could not access without direct contact. They valued the physical contact with books as there was no longer a library space in the primary school as this had been converted to a place to support ASN. The community were aware and raised of the challenges associated with poverty such as lower literacy rates, and rural isolation including poor transport links and access to digital services. The engagement highlighted the desire for a community space which provides an accessible and warm space and can offer local services such as adult learning , youth work and support for mental health to a community which has a range of challenges in particular a level of deprivation and rural isolation.	Community planning partner must review the wider neds to support the community

5.5. Information Gaps

We don't have more detailed demographic/profile information of current library service users to understand how each might be impacted
Need for and availability of and access to alternative spaces/venues/activities.
At time of writing don't have an accessibility rating for current building

5.6. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale

Measure	Timescale
User engagement over transition as well as user monitoring could help better understand specific impact and help resolve transition issues for groups/individuals. However, without this information, we can assume for and mitigate against all likely/possible impacts such as free/affordable, broadly accessible access to books, digital data, computers, training and social spaces.	April 2024 - ongoing
Explore accessibility to neighbouring venues and or condition/ availability of local venues	Current - Dec 2024
Audit Building for Accessibility	August 2024

5.7. Engagement with affected groups
Engagement with local library staff focused on services used and accessed

5.8. Ensuring engagement with protected groups
We have acknowledged that although we have considered all library users when consulting local staff on 'how' the library is currently used we have not checked this against protected characteristics although we have identified likely impacts and mitigations. Ongoing engagement required .and is planned.

5.9. Evidence of engagement
We have consulted library users across Aberdeenshire to understand how libraries are used and for what. We have acknowledge that ongoing engagement to ensure access and support transition to alterative services will be necessary. We hope that by engaging all users we will reach those with lived experience.

5.10. Overall Outcome
All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

There may be short term gaps but in the medium to long term all impacts can be mitigated through alternative LLA Library service provision in the area, working with the partners and the community to ensure digital access, social spaces and access to support and services. Engagement with and monitoring of users over the transition will help identify issues and ensure access when promoting and developing alternative provision.   The LLA Service recognise there will be impacts not directly related to Library Service Delivery and access. LLA and Communities Wellbeing and Partnerships are committed to working with other services to understand and support mitigation of indirect impact on children and families such as employability, digital and social opportunities.

5.11. Improving Relations
Ensuring broad access to services through working together with different user groups, partners and community organisations

5.12. Opportunities of Equality
Development of alternative services and working in partnership as well as engaging different groups will help ensure fair access . Budget savings around cost of running the building will help toward sustainable services.

6. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

6.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating		Yes		
Exercise and physical activity		Yes		
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health			Yes	

6.2. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Mental health	Libraries are used both as access to culture, education, support to access other services, digital literacies and/or access and in some cases as social spaces. All of these have impact on positive mental health so changes unmitigated could have a negative impact.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Alternative means of providing core library services. Work with partners and communities to ensure all positive outcomes currently met throughthe library, operating out of this building, can be met in, and accessed by, the community. I.e. Access to digital literacies/ equipment and social spaces
	Timescale	Short Term/Current- Promotion and development of alt Library services Med: Engagement partners and of user groups/transition support Long-term - Development of accessible services as needed, monitoring access.

6.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Consultation	Library Staff Consultation	Current activities/services that are likely having a positive impact. These included - weekly craft sessions for younger children, book bugs, lego sessions and summer reading challenge. Access for social, cultural, digital and employability's was also mentioned for wider population and we can assume families could be in this group.	We can assume changes to or continuation of other valued services will have an impact on wellbeing via access to services - employability, digital, cultural so attention to these wider services need to be included.
External Data	Community Assets	We know there are community facilities that are publicly accessible and good capacity community based organisations	Potential spaces for outreach library services as well as potential for sign posting to, or developing of, alternative opportunities, currently met through activities in this building, to support wellbeing

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Other Evidence	Community Engagement 2024	There was strong representation from the community at two open sessions. The library service was valued for its core delivery and the residents indicated this supported learning for all ages, access to resources and professional support which they could not access without direct contact. They valued the physical contact with books as there was no longer a library space in the primary school as this had been converted to a place to support ASN. The community were aware and raised of the challenges associated with poverty such as lower literacy rates, and rural isolation including poor transport links and access to digital services. The engagement highlighted the desire for a community space which provides an accessible and warm space and can offer local services such as adult learning , youth work and support for mental health to a community which has a range of challenges in particular a level of deprivation and rural isolation.	Community Planning partners need to review community needs that are not core library service which support mental health and wellbeing.

6.4. Information Gaps

Knowledge of alternative activities/organisations/partnerships that may provide, or could be developed to provide, locally some of the activities valued through the library.
Better knowledge of other local venues/facilities and transport links to neighbouring venues/facilities.

6.5. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
Engagement with communities and partners including Learning Communities Partnerships and Community Planning Partnerships	Current to ongoing
Gather information about local venues and transport links/ accessibility to neighbouring venues.	Current

6.6. Overall Outcome

All Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

LLA is committed to ensuring provision of core library services and has practice based examples.
As well as click and collect and door to door there is flexibility within the service to operate out reach services in other facilities should need be identified. There is good understanding by the service of wider impacts to help ensure these are positively addressed whether directly through the service or through other agencies/partnership. We know there is other facilities in the local area and neighbouring area and we are exploring how/if these can be accessed if need identified.

7. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

7.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy	Yes		Yes	
Energy efficiency		Yes		
Energy source		Yes		
Low carbon transition	Yes			
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity			Yes	
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition			Yes	

7.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment		Yes		
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity		Yes		
Infrastructure resilience		Yes		
Council resilience		Yes		
Community resilience			Yes	
Adaptation		Yes		

7.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Consumption of energy	Closure of a building that is under used and not efficient is likely to have long term energy consumption savings - heat electric. It's also likely that a community organisation or private buyer would lead to improvements in energy efficiency access to alt resources.
Low carbon transition	Anticipate carbon saving from closing under used, inefficient building.

7.4. Negative Impacts and Mitigations

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation	
Community resilience	Library services are used to up skill the local population this can include individuals self directed or supported learning and volunteers/community organisations working on behalf of the community accessing information including digitally. The library is also a social space - developing social capital is a marker of resilience.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	As a service and as part of wider council we are committed to ensuring the provision of life long learning as well as supporting community resilience including through capacity building. We have also checked there are alternative public spaces and know there are community organisations using these.
	Timescale	Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options/ need for outreach alternative venue Short Term Engage with and support individual users with transition – access to alt services/ signposting/ understand gaps Medium Term - Develop/ expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services
Consumption of energy	Energy from transport for residents to alternative libraries may increase, particularly for those preferring in person services or less likely to access on line services.	
	Can be mitigated	Yes
	Mitigation	Continue to offer doorstop delivery and explore outreach services suitable to the community.
	Timescale	Ongoing

Impact Area	Details and Mitigation		
Economic and social transition	Library services are used to upskill local population through - learning, enterprise and employability.		
	Can be mitigated	Yes	
	Mitigation		As a service and through wider council we are committed to ensuring ongoing provision of services and support for learning for life. We will monitor availability of and access to services over transition.
	Timescale		Current - Promote alternative library services and explore options/ need for outreach alternative venue Short Term - Engage with and support individual users with transition – access to alt services/ signposting/ understand gaps Medium Term - Develop/expend alternative provision Long term - monitor a develop additional services
Waste and circularity	Closing a building will mean surplus material - furniture/ electrical equipment. Following asset disposal depending on the future use, if it is retained or sold, there could be additional waste impact for instance through refurbishment.		
	Can be mitigated	No	
	Justification		In line with the Aberdeenshire policy https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24872/resourcesandcirculareconomycommitment.pdf we will promote reuse within the service, wider council and community, develop external links and arrangements, including with the third sector and community groups, to ensure that resources not needed within the council go to the most productive use possible, with disposal (recycling, landfill or burning) being the last resort.

7.5. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Building Costs/ Maintainance	We know we are currently consuming energy and materials maintaining and using this building. As well as staff traveling to maintain and check the building and consumables including water safety checks. The building is closed much of the time.	There will be carbon and material saving over the long run. Potential for the building to be repurposed/invested in which is not viable within public sector.

7.6. Information Gaps
Current carbon cost figures

7.7. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
Obtain current carbon cost of building	September 2024

7.8. Overall Outcome
Only Some Negative Impacts Can Be Mitigated.

Community resilience through alternative services, existence of strong community organisations and fit for purpose facilities. Factors impacted that can be mitigated include climate, carbon reduction and resilience related education and training access and opportunities as well as social spaces opportunities for social capital building in community. Although we know we can achieve a carbon, consumption reduction for the council longer term through disposal of building we cannot guarantee the future carbon cost of the building or that either the contents or fabric of the building will not in part end up in land fill. We will ensure materials are put into the circular economy where possible though recycling and reuse in line with https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24872/resourcesandcirculareconomycommitment.pdf

Long term impacts are over all positive. The negative i.e. land fill may be consequential whether we retain building or not as refurbishment/modernisation would be required

8. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

8.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets		Yes		
Footfall	Yes	Yes		
Changes to road layouts		Yes		
Parking		Yes		
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre		Yes		
Tourism		Yes		
Public safety		Yes		
Town centre business		Yes		
Cultural heritage and identity		Yes		
Social and cultural aspects	Yes	Yes		

8.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Footfall	Potential for higher footfall in neighbouring town of Banff as there is an alternative library facility there although where possible we will look to ensure services are regularly accessible in the local community.
Social and cultural aspects	Efficiencies will help us to sustain services in the Banff facility.

8.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Data	Service Data - cost and saving	Service disinvestment in New Pitsligo facility will produce a budget saving long term. Costs of using other buildings in other areas are less than running a building.	Limited resources can be used on retained facilities.

8.4. Information Gaps

Understanding of transport/green transport links and in general accessibility to neighbouring towns

8.5. Measures to fill Information Gaps

Measure	Timescale
Gather information around transport links/green transport routes including in context of broad accessibility.	Current to Dec 2024

8.6. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The facility is not in an identified town and only potential positive impacts for neighbouring identified towns have been identified.

9. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details	
Public Briefng meetings - Engagement with key stakeholders including Community Councils, Community Organisations, Community User Groups, Other User Groups (Partners) - Briefng on disinvestment steps, options for communities, alternative service provision and feedback from participants informing next steps.	**Lead Officer**	Stephen Brown
	Repeating Activity	No
	Planned Start	Friday March 01, 2024
	Planned Finish	Sunday December 01, 2024
	Expected Outcome	Robust understanding of local their needs. Positive transition alternative library service provi Suitable disposal of asset. Info future provision- fit for purpose accessible alternative provisio services community.
	Resource Implications	Community planning partners staff time,
Monitoring access to library services through transition and beyond.	**Lead Officer**	Chris Murphy
	Repeating Activity	No
	Planned Start	Monday July 01, 2024
	Planned Finish	Saturday March 01, 2025
	Expected Outcome	Understanding in trends and requirement for improvement
	Resource Implications	staff time
Consultation with service users around impact of disinvestment in Library facility for different protected characteristics and in context of Fairer Scotland Duties	**Lead Officer**	Left - 2024/09/24 - Claire D Th
	Repeating Activity	No
	Planned Start	Friday March 01, 2024
	Planned Finish	Tuesday October 01, 2024
	Expected Outcome	Robust understanding of impa context of Equalities and Faire duties, to better inform mitigat action. Informed service- fit fo accessible alternative provisio services . Positive transition to alternativ
	Resource Implications	Staff resource

Planned Action	Details	
Cross Services supported place planning activity in New Pitsligo.	**Lead Officer**	Amanda Roe
	Repeating Activity	No
	Planned Start	Sunday September 01, 2024
	Planned Finish	Wednesday October 01, 2025
	Expected Outcome	Place planning approach creat... understanding and looks to ad... impacts.
	Resource Implications	Staff time
Determine the costs for building closure and holding costs. Investigate alternative uses for the building.	**Lead Officer**	Stephen Brown
	Repeating Activity	No
	Planned Start	Tuesday October 01, 2024
	Planned Finish	Saturday March 01, 2025
	Expected Outcome	Appropriate planning in place
	Resource Implications	Staff time and budget
Service asset disposal process in line with https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24872/resourcesandcirculareconomycommitment.pdfwith all staff involved given clear process guidance. Obtain information on current carbon costs from local authority energy team and engage with the Estates Team to ensure a plan is in place to minimise moving emissions elsewhere.	**Lead Officer**	Allan Rae
	Repeating Activity	No
	Planned Start	Tuesday October 01, 2024
	Planned Finish	Wednesday January 01, 2025
	Expected Outcome	Minimise waste through resou... management, recycling , and e... staff comply with guidance.
	Resource Implications	Staff time
Developing Services & Opportunities: Partnership work and Community Capacity Building	**Lead Officer**	Dominique Carlisle-kitz
	Repeating Activity	No
	Planned Start	Sunday September 01, 2024
	Planned Finish	Tuesday April 01, 2025
	Expected Outcome	Community access to other re... services - Promotion/signpost... alternative activities or develop... new activities through partners... working or Community Capaci... Building .E.g. Family learning ,l... literacies/Computer Access/S... Spaces/Employability and Ente... free health and wellbeing prod...
	Resource Implications	Cross service staff time.