BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND "Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live" WARD PROPOSAL FORM

Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below.

(Tick all those that apply)

City Core Priorities

- Children a Great
 City to Grow Up In
- Jobs & Skills a great City to succeed in
- Housing a great
 City to live in
- Health a great City X to lead a healthy & active life

LIF Priorities

- Citizens' Independence & Well Being
- New approaches to investment X
- Active citizens & communities stepping up
- Clean streets

Improving local centres

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What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?

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Background

FOLIO Sutton Coldfield is a newly-formed charity (application submitted but status not yet confirmed) formed to support Sutton Coldfield Library Service by fund-raising and facilitating library events and outreach. Our aim is to play a unique and innovative role in reinventing what is offered to the community from inside the walls of Sutton Coldfield Library. Our vision it to meet with energy and ingenuity the modern day needs of our local community ensuring the library becomes a genuine local hub of activity and services. Funding from the Local Innovation Fund will be the catalyst for us to help change and shape a whole new service that will be reflective of community needs.

In October 2016 Birmingham City Council started a public consultation on its proposed re-organisation of community libraries across the city. Under these original proposals, Sutton Coldfield Library (housed in the Red Rose Centre, Lower Parade, Sutton Coldfield) was being considered for complete closure. In response to this, an informal community campaign group (not affiliated to any political party) made up of Sutton Coldfield residents and users of Sutton Library quickly became established; The Library Lobby (http://thelibrarylobby.org.uk/) had two main aims:

.to raise awareness of Birmingham City Council's proposed library cuts, with specific reference to

the proposed closure of Sutton Coldfield library; and

.to develop a constructive alternative proposal, that would keep a lively, well-resourced, widely used library in the town centre of Sutton Coldfield, including the town archive, free internet access and support for children and families, staffed by library professionals.

The Library Lobby had considerable success; it prevented the planned closure on April 1 and persuaded the City Council and Sutton Coldfield Town Council to work together to ensure the library remains open until at least August 31st 2017, thereby creating the window of time necessary to put a long term financially sustainable model in place.

Members of The Library Lobby subsequently established FOLIO Sutton Coldfield, a 'friends' group (FOLIO Sutton Coldfield stands for Friends Of Libraries in Our Sutton Coldfield;

www.facebook.com/FOLIOSuttonColdfield/) to support Sutton Coldfield library (and potentially other libraries in Sutton Coldfield in the future). Our charitable objects are:

- 1. The advancement of education for the public benefit and the fostering of an appreciation of literature and the arts in the area served by public libraries which are based in the constituency of Sutton Coldfield, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or politics, religious or other opinions, in particular but not exclusively by:
- (a) supporting and promoting Sutton Coldfield library service and associated archives;
- (b) facilitating educational, cultural and community courses and events in libraries and through library outreach;
- (c) fostering links to educational, cultural and community organisations; and
- (d) providing facilities in the interests of social welfare, for recreation, leisure time and occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.
- 2. The pursuit or fulfilment of any other charitable purpose or goal relating to libraries, learning or the arts within the area served by public libraries which are based in the

constituency of Sutton Coldfield.

Our Proposal in Outline

In the course of consulting with Sutton residents as to what they'd like to see inside the library and as a result of listening to what we were told about what would make a positive difference to their lives in Sutton, FOLIO Sutton Coldfield have worked up a detailed plan for installing and running an intergenerational community play-café inside Sutton Coldfield library, thereby creating:-

- a new, much needed and requested family-friendly space in central Sutton Coldfield;
- an innovative and exciting community space to hold events run by FOLIO Sutton Coldfield and other community groups; and
- an ongoing, financially secure funding stream (through café revenue), which will support Sutton Coldfield library.

To deliver this plan FOLIO Sutton Coldfield are in the process of entering a Joint Venture Partnership with a local Community Interest Company which has rich experience of running play-cafés; LGF Play Cafes CIC.

FOLIO and LGF CIC share similar values and ethics, with a commitment to supporting local communities, families and young children and adding value to the community in which they work.

Playing is central to children's physical, mental, social and emotional health and well-being. Through play, children develop resilience and flexibility, contributing to physical and emotional well-being. For children themselves playing is one of the most important aspects of their lives. Play is what children and young people do. Play is a biological drive.

The Welsh Government Play Policy states "'Play is so critically important to all children in the development of their physical, social, mental, emotional and creative skills that society should seek every opportunity to support it and create an environment that fosters it. Decision making at all levels of government should include a consideration of the impact of those decisions, on children's opportunities to play".

LGF and FOLIO Sutton Coldfield come with a team of trained professionals including a wide bank of teachers who are able to offer their expertise and talent to ensure that the play is structured and beneficial to the children' development. With the support of this expertise, FOLIO Sutton Coldfield will offer training and volunteering opportunities through the proposed play-café for young people and adults interested in play and children's development.

We recognise that the funding cuts across Birmingham have had an adverse impact on statutory and third sector groups that focus on the initial development of children via play as a key educational and behavioural tool. Our project will help negate this issue as we build a new community based asset that will help develop our future generation of young people.

LGF and one of FOLIO Sutton Coldfield's trustees have a proven track record of setting up peer support groups for parents that act as a support and nurturing group for young parents. Through their community consultation they have seen the benefit of having a safe place for parents to go to where they can share their worries concerns and issues so that they realise they are not unique and coping mechanisms can be developed that will make the formative years of local children less demanding.

Our LiF application is to cover the core costs of the establishment of our intergenerational community play-café, and the costs of formally launching the new community space with a play and literacy themed family festival. The funding will act as seed-funding enabling us to reach a position whereby the play-café is financially self sustaining and able to facilitate community events on an ongoing basis.

Our Proposal in Detail

Play-cafés are a new and upcoming concept which is designed to attract families with young children into a welcoming environment where children are able to safely and creatively play while their parents and carers can relax, create community bonds and networks while ensuring local peer support and advice organically evolves while enjoying great food and drink.

Our community play-café will focus on the five key elements, Eat, Drink, Play and, crucially, Love your Library and Celebrate your Community.

Eat: The play-café will be centred on a coffee shop counter serving fresh, healthy and convenient food along with the inevitable cake counter. (we are currently in dialogue with the Kingstanding Food Community Program who run a volunteer community based cookery programme so they can be one of our preferred suppliers). There will be table service, ideal for customers with small children and a take away counter.

Drink: A key feature and differentiator of our play-café is the range and quality of drinks available for adults and children. There will be coffees made by trained baristas, a selection of high quality teas and a range of cold drinks including smoothies and milkshakes.

Play: The play-café will house a permanent soft play structure designed for 0 – 4 year olds and will be located in a position which enables parents and carers to oversee their children by accompanying them in the soft play area or from the comfort of their table.

Love your Library: In addition to the soft play area, the play-café would provide opportunities for children to be involved in craft, singing, and reading activities provided in close partnership with the library team, funded and facilitated by FOLIO Sutton Coldfield.

Celebrate your Community: Our community play-café will feature spaces for local artists and craftspeople to display and sell their work. We anticipate dedicating one wall to local art displays and the café will house at least one glass cabinet for displaying 3-D work. We have already received one

expression of interest in this from Sutton Coldfield Society of Artists and from a local photojournalist and we have started consultation with other local artists. We hope that, over time, this will become an income generation stream for FOLIO Sutton Coldfield, based on renting out the display space and/or a commission on sales. We will also install a community noticeboard for local groups and event organisers to use.

Our play-café will be professionally managed and run and will draw on LGF's knowledge and experience of their successful play-café in Lichfield. According to our business plan the community play-café will generate enough income to run all aspects of the café and pay the annual rent of the space which will house the play-café within the library.

Our Community play-café will:-

- add a much requested and valuable family friendly place in the centre of Sutton Coldfield;
- increase footfall to the library;
- provide an exciting and innovative space within which FOLIO Sutton Coldfield and other community groups can run events;
- provide a space for local artists and craftspeople to display and sell their work;
- directly generate a number of local jobs, as well as supporting local suppliers;
- play a role in the long term financial security of the library (by providing rental income); and
- potentially generate ongoing funds for FOLIO Sutton Coldfield: All surplus revenue created by the play-café (predicted to be around £5000pa) will be donated to FOLIO Sutton Coldfield.

Based on the expected level of custom that will be generated at the play-café the staffing level required will mean that between 6 and 8 people from the local community will be employed. There will be a range of full time and flexible part-time positions available. In addition to the direct employment of local residents, the play-café will enable the retention of the employment of numerous workers (council employees) in the library, by playing a key role in the overall long-term financial package to secure the library.

How Our proposal complements and enhances the library offering

Whilst our LiF proposal is primarily about supporting a vibrant, dynamic and engaged community group establish itself in Sutton Coldfield for the benefit of all residents, it is also true that in operating out of Sutton Coldfield Library our play-café will enhance the library offering.

A play-café will enable Sutton Coldfield Library to provide an innovative facility which will significantly expand the range of services which are offered. Libraries have traditionally focussed directly on the child's linguistic development, encouraging reading skills and reading experiences. Some libraries provide toys within their children's libraries, however, the introduction of a play-café recognises more visibly the role of play with children's development, while linking play with imagination, and the child's zest for reading.

We believe a play-café inside the library would meet a number of the outcomes identified in the Libraries Taskforce's 'Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016 to 2021', specifically:-

- healthier and happier lives;
- cultural and creative enrichment:
- helping everyone achieve their full potential; and
- · increased reading and literacy.

It would also deliver against a number of the Society of Chief Librarians' Universal Offers:

- reading;
- learning;
- health:
- culture (the newest Universal Offer)

We believe that introducing soft play into the library will have a significant positive impact on library usage by families in Sutton Coldfield, facilitating reading and learning, not least by associating them with enjoyment. The community play-café also has the potential to have a positive impact on the mental health of families with young children, who can often feel isolated.

The community play-café will be a space inside the library where people of all ages can experience and try different art forms, whether that is through the programme of art, craft and story events we plan to put on, or via the exhibition space we are incorporating into our play-cafe. As the Society of Chief Librarians' state:

The benefits of art and culture are well documented. Almost 60% of people are more likely to report good health if they have attended a cultural place or event in the last 12 months. Libraries are often the first place that children and young people experience art and culture," and our play-café will only further facilitate this.

Case studies that show the causal connection between play libraries and increased engagement in library activities and book lending

In 2015 Knightswood Library in Glasgow invested in a soft play area inside their library. Knightswood Library has confirmed to us that the soft play "works well to attract new users, prolonging and increasing their visits and better engaging them with our book lending and other services". In addition, almost all users reported that they had seen both social and educational benefits for themselves and their children through engagement with the service. Over the 1st full year of the service they recorded a 37% increase in Junior Fiction lending and 7000 additional visits to the venue. The soft play played a very significant part in those figure increases.

FOLIO Sutton Coldfield is not the only organisation to believe that soft play can revitalise a library. In January 2017 the Arts Council announced they had awarded Eltham Library in Greenwich a grant of

£125,121 to create an indoor soft play facility built around the theme of children's literature. FOLIO Sutton Coldfield are in touch with the lead on this project in Eltham Library and are taking advice from them.

A play-café isn't just about play though - it is also about having a café in the library. During the campaign to save Sutton Coldfield library from closure, the introduction of a library café has been the most universally requested added amenity.

Libraries shaping the future: good practice toolkit, the best practice guide produced by the Leadership for Libraries Taskforce, identifies the introduction of cafés into libraries as a valuable income generation source. Members of FOLIO have, on a confidential basis, received extremely encouraging data showing the positive impact of a café on library footfall and utilisation. We are also aware of anecdotal evidence of the positive impact of café offerings within libraries as part of a modernisation programme carried out by The London Borough of Hillingdon over the last decade, and indeed at the Library of Birmingham.

All in all, we believe the community play-café has tremendous potential. Members of the target demographic (families with young children) have repeatedly reported to us the lack of any such facility within Sutton Coldfield (and indeed, a lack of family-friendly and accessible café-spaces generally in the town). Anecdotally, most parents with young children in Sutton Coldfield appear to travel to Lichfield, Tamworth or elsewhere for such facilities.

We have consulted as widely as possible in the time frame available with residents of Sutton Coldfield about our play-café proposal including via an online survey https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/J8N9C6Y and through meetings with various key stakeholders including families attending pre-school story sessions in the library and Fiona Godwin, Children's Centre Manager for Sutton Coldfield locality.

The results of our online survey gave these results:

93.43% say they like the idea of the community play café "a lot". No respondent dislikes the idea.
77.21% of respondents agree with the statement "It would probably entice me to visit the library more "
11.01% of respondents agree with the statement "It might entice me to visit the library more "
0.74% of respondents agree with the statement "It would probably stop me from visiting the library as much"

Comments include:-

"I haven't been to the library since I was a child myself. Having a play cafe there would DEFINITELY entice me to go... and I'd tell all my new mummy friends! "

"I have a 2-month old baby, live locally and would look for activities for her. I like the idea of her being familiar with her local library too."

"If the library offered this service I would visit more than once a week. I'm keen to get my daughter to

enjoy reading and feel sad that the library (which was such a big part of my childhood) wouldn't be the same for my little one. I will definitely use this service if it was available. "

"Often spend less than 30 mins in library as youngest loses interest this would enable my little one to play whilst my eldest could read. Great idea would suit my 4 and 7 year old."

"There are no soft play areas in Sutton town centre and this means myself and my mum friends have to travel further out to go for a coffee/teas and keep our babies amused. I would visit this at least once a week."

"Would love somewhere safe for the children to play so I could relax with a book or chat with friends"

The Office for National Statistics estimated that there were 5,302 0-4 year olds in Sutton Coldfield in mid 2015. Currently 272 0-4 year olds are registered at Sutton Coldfield Library with an additional 491 registered at Mere Green Library, 226 at Boldmere Library and 174 at Walmley library. In total 1,163 0-4 year olds are registered library ticket holders across Sutton Coldfield. Clearly, there is considerable potential for growth in young registered library users and we will be working with the library to plan a targeted approach to encourage users of the community play-café to become registered library users.

In 2015 the then Education Minister, Nicky Morgan, announced the Government's ambition to see every 8-year-old enrolled at their local library. Our play-café will incentivise families with young children to visit the library, enabling librarians to reach out and encourage them to join, in line with the Government's stated ambition.

Whist there are other soft-play facilities in North Birmingham, our offering will be unique:

- It will have a focus on creative play, linking with the library and education.
- It will be very local; many families will be able to walk to it, though we anticipate it attracting families from further afield too.
- It will be provided in a space which welcomes all; some relatively local soft play facilities are associated with pubs, spaces in which not all members of the community feel comfortable.

What a successful LiF bid would cover

Once the play-café is up and running it will be fully self-sustaining. However we need help to cover the core costs of establishing and launching our intergenerational community play-café. Our application covers the key elements of creating the play-café, putting into place everything needed to offer volunteering and training opportunities, and also the launch of the new community space, in particular publicity costs and a play and literacy themed family festival

facilitated by volunteers from FOLIO Sutton Coldfield which will include author visits, cross	7
generational events designed specifically to bring older people and young children together	
around play and nostalgia (utilising Birmingham Museums resources on toys from the past),	
community building events facilitating all to play a role in creating a cardboard/lego model of	
what they'd like to see in their home town and a rich series of varied cultural events put on by	
volunteers from FOLIO Sutton Coldfield, similar to the 80 th birthday celebrations for the library which we	
put on in March 2017.	ĺ
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Time Frame - is it:-

One off event/programme Implement and complete within 6 months (2016) Implement and complete within 12 months (2017)

How will the innovation be implemented?

FOLIO Sutton Coldfield will enter into a joint venture partnership with LGF Play Cafes CIC to implement and deliver the innovation.

What outcomes will the proposal achieve? What will success look like and how will its impact be measured? How will you ensure legacy/ continuation and what learning will the project provide?

Outcomes

We anticipate the introduction of a community play-café inside the library will

- -play a vital role in ensuring the continued existence of Sutton Coldfield library by creating an ongoing revenue stream
- -foster the creating of a sense of community in central Sutton Coldfield, by acting as a central easily identifiable location to bring community groups together
- -enrich family life in Sutton Coldfield, including wellness and mental health of families -play an innovative role in revitalising the library service in Sutton Coldfield

Success: What does it look like and how will it be measured?

- -Reinventing and ensuring the continued existence of the library will be our key success criteria. In doing so our library will be turned into a true local hub for community activity.
- -Increased footfall (LGF in their existing establishment in Lichfield generate up to 100 visitors a day, their initial research suggest this will be exceeded in Sutton Coldfield), borrowing and membership of the library will be indicators of success; we intend to implement a programme of manually measuring library footfall before and after the installation of the play-café, and will use library data on membership and borrowing rates.
- -Revenue created by play-café creates a surplus, thereby generating funds which FOLIO Sutton Coldfield can use to facilitate a wide range of library based community activities
- -Paper based feedback will be facilitated in the library and play-café in the first months after opening in order to measure local opinion and refine our offering; questionnaires will be left on tables, with a feedback box provided and monitored.

Legacy/continuation and learning

-The Chair of FOLIO Sutton Coldfield has been invited to talk at the Speak Up for Libraries Conference in November 2017 to share FOLIO's learning with the broader library campaigning group

- -A subsection of the play-café's website will document the play-café's story, sharing our experience and learning
- -Our play-café design takes into account the possibility that in the future Sutton Coldfield library may be housed in a new location (eg should the current building be redeveloped); the assets which we plan to buy for the fit out of the play-café would be largely demountable equipment which is a) moveable and b) reusable.
- -We are in dialogue with Birmingham City Council and the various Friends of Across the City as we believe that our new and unique proposal of reinventing libraries can be replicated across Birmingham.

Have you considered other sources of funding and whether the project can be used to leverage further funding from elsewhere (please specify funding sources)?

We are in the process of applying for grants from Awards for All and the Birmingham Airport Community Trust Fund.

What resources will be required?

£

- Capital
- Running costs
- People power volunteers

10.
38,00

Amount required from LIF £...£48,000 Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind?

We have matchfunding in kind. We anticipate the establishment of the play-café using at least 2000 volunteer hours, all of which have been fully committed to.

Contact p	erson for	proposal	l
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Name	Zoe Toft, Chair, FOLIO Sutton Coldfield
Telephone012	1 354 2976
E-mailzoe.toft	@kuvik.net

Which residents or community groups was the proposal discussed with and when (please give details of any meetings and which councillors attended)?

19 January 2017 Sutton Trinity Ward meeting

30 May 2017 Library Lobby public meeting

7 June 2017 Meeting with Compass Support, Falcon Lodge

12 June 2017 FOLIO Sutton Coldfield public meeting, held at Our Place Community Hub

14 June 2017 Sutton Locality Children's Centre Advisory Board, New Hall Children's Centre

Online public survey (opened 13 June, currently still open)

Results as of 1 July

139 respondents

When asked "What do you feel about the idea of a play-café?" 93.43% say they like the idea of the community play cafe "a lot". No respondent disliked the idea.

Reasons given when asked to explain their answer included: Response Text

Very keen for the library to stay open. My children and husband use the library for study purposes.

I have an eighteen month old daughter and there is nowhere like this to take her in Sutton Coldfield. We use the soft play at Shenstone and Lichfield frequently and it would be so great to have somewhere to go in Sutton so I can get things I need in the centre and do something my daughter would enjoy too.

I have little children and feel the lack of play areas for them locally. It would be ideal to combine a visit to the library for books with a play area and cafe.

At present we have to travel to Lichfield or the Big Play Barn for soft play. The idea of having one so close to home in Sutton is excellent. Being in the library would be excellent as we could encourage little ones to play & then borrow books at the same time.

It would be a central location to have such a facility. There are not many things for children to do in Sutton.

I have 4 children and finding somewhere to go with them other than an expensive play centre or the shops is quite tricky at times

I believe a play cafe would entice an increased footfall through the library's doors. I for one would welcome the option of having a coffee after choosing books for myselfand my daughter in a child friendly environment.

Whilst I don"t use the library regularly now I did when my son was little. A ply cafe sits well with the ethos of reading for all.

There is currently nowhere like this in Sutton town centre. It would be lovely to have a child friendly space where you can grab a cup of tea. Also, I think it would encourage families to use the library service more.

I would have used it when my kids were younger. The library should be a community hub.

It would be great to have somewhere to take my two year old and five year old in Sutton Coldfield town centre to play. This would make me use the library and visit the town centre more often

This would be a great local resource. There isn't another one like it.

It would be a great resource as there is no other cafe offering play for under 5's.

I have a 7 month old and I envisage using this a lot. Sutton Coldfield is missing something like this.

I have a toddler and we love getting library books. Book, food and soft play in the same building would be awesome

I would love to have a cafe in a library where I could spend time with my child, and great if it could be used for community events too

As a mother of 3 children I always felt Sutton town centre was lacking an indoor activity where mums can meet and children can play. This coupled with the fact that it would help to support our library gets my vote.

I want to take my kids (aged 2 and 3) to the library more and this would make more reason to and turn it into a day out rather than just a quick visit.

Would give me more reason to visit the library and more to entertain my little ones in Sutton.

It is exactly what Sutton needs. Provision for preschoolers not attending nursery are slant unless they go to commercial classes.

It sounds like a place you can meet with friends whilst there being something to occupy the

kids! A great combo!

I have a 16month old and feel sof play is lacking in sutton area. Would mean i would definately come into sutton centre and the library more often

It's a great way to get people to come to the library - playtime & reading go hand in hand

This is very much needed!

Great idea for Sutton. Would definitely use this facility.

Sutton Coldfield is hugely missing something like this and it will be very popular with new mums!

Nice to have space for young children to have a wonder and play as well being able to have a drink and introduce them to new stories

I take my small children to the library and would love to then be able to have a drink whilst they play. I imagine I would use it regularly

Fab idea, not enough indoor play centres in Sutton Coldfield. Combining this with a cafe for parents within the library makes it even more appealing.

Very important to provide early skills area within local community

Sutton Coldfield is missing a trick not having this available- especially as community is so important after you've had a baby for support and sanity

Would give me and my one year old daughter a reason to visit the library regularly that I used as a child and I volunteered in as a teenager

I think this is a good idea. It would reach out to parents with young kids to visit, kids can play while parents choose books. Kids would also enjoy library visits then.

I think this would be such a great idea to bring more people to the library and also help children enjoy books.

Genius.

think it's a great idea to bring people into the library,particularly during the day time	
excellent idea for the community to be together, have a drink whilst youngster are playing and his would link the benefits of reading as a positive pass time. would have loved to take my children to something like this when they were younger.	
lowhere in Sutton to take small children now BHS cafe has gone. Children's Centre services ave been reduced and living in Sutton without a car can be isolating.	
t will bring lots of life to the library!	
77.21% of respondents agreed with the statement "It would probably entice me to visit the library more	
11.01% of respondents agreed with the statement "It might entice me to visit the library more "	
Discussed at	
Ward Trinity meeting	
Date 19 th January 2017 / 2/11/17.	4
Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors	
Name David BALL Signature Date 28 Soft	
Name Signature Date	
NameMARGARET WARDONGON Signature Officially pate 28. Sept	
<u>Internal use only</u>	
Received: Date	
Go to Cabinet Committee — Local Leadership for decision: Date	
Barra de Cara de la Companya de Cara de La Cara de Car Cara de Cara d	
Approved Yes No	