

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND "Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live" PROPOSAL FORM													
WARD Oscott	INNOVATION TITLE Sustaining Oscott Libraries												
<p>Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below. (Tick all those that apply)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>City Core Priorities</u></th> <th style="text-align: left; width: 50%;"><u>LIF Priorities</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Children - a Great City to Grow Up In <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Citizens' Independence & Well Being <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Jobs & Skills <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• New approaches to investment <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Housing for Birmingham <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Active citizens & communities stepping up <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Health <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>• Clean streets <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Improving local centres</td> <td><input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>City Core Priorities</u>	<u>LIF Priorities</u>	• Children - a Great City to Grow Up In <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	• Citizens' Independence & Well Being <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	• Jobs & Skills <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	• New approaches to investment <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	• Housing for Birmingham <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	• Active citizens & communities stepping up <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	• Health <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	• Clean streets <input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>	• Improving local centres	<input style="float: right;" type="checkbox"/>
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<p>What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship?</p> <p><i>Witton Lodge Community Association will work with local residents, elected members, library staff and stakeholders to retain, diversify, develop and sustain Perry Common and Kingstanding libraries.</i></p> <p><i>We will develop the two libraries into 'one stop shops' where residents can access jobs and skills support, health and wellbeing services and housing advice in addition to usual library services. We will provide an effective 'outreach, in-reach' service, which seeks out isolated, vulnerable and 'unwell' older adults, NEETS and unemployed adults, carers and children and families at risk of social and economic marginalisation.</i></p> <p><i>The service will improve health, skills and employment, enabling access to meaningful activity and local networks in order to enhance wellbeing. A key feature of our approach is building the capacity of the local community and infrastructure and ensuring long term sustainability beyond the current funding period.</i></p> <p>With Local Innovation Fund support, we will be able to appoint a dedicated officer to develop our one stop 'Living Well' model in the two libraries and put in place the necessary infrastructure (IT/equipment/systems) to ensure the service can continue beyond the initial 12 month funded period - this will involve setting up services (employment, health & well-being and housing advice), training up volunteers, creating partnerships and securing other resources.</p>													

At the outset (upon approval of the project) WLCA will commence community-facing taster sessions/advice surgeries building up to a full day service from both libraries. We will also commence the process of recruiting and training volunteers. In addition to this, we will start to build new partnerships and secure additional resources to further develop services at both libraries. Through this process (by the end of the 12month funded period) we will aim, not only to maintain current opening hours, but to extend these with a broader range of services that meet local community needs. Whilst we are confident that we will achieve this, as a minimum, WLCA will commit to providing a 1 day per week service for both sites using its existing personnel and resources.

Our approach;

- Provides an immediate impact by offering additional services from our flourishing community programme
- Combines budgets, offers value for money and significant leverage (financial and human resource/staff time). **WLCA will invest more than £1 for every £1 of LIF**
- Works with the library service to build community capacity and infrastructure
- Addresses immediate priorities and develops a collaborative and sustainable model for library services in the area

Our Proposal will **Sustain Oscott Libraries into the future** as Birmingham Community Libraries face changes in models of operation, reduction in opening hours and staffing. The proposed changes have recently been under public consultation and three tiers of operation have been put forth;

Tier 1 libraries will remain as they are within Birmingham library Service, with no reduction to current opening hours

Tier 2 libraries will reduce current opening hours from 28 hours to 21 hours per week and operate in partnership with the Third Sector

Tier 3 libraries will face closure or remain open in a limited capacity via community asset transfers but supported by BCC through the provision of 15 hours of staffing

Both Perry Common and Kingstanding are in Tier 2. Our approach, of immediate impact through additional taster sessions combined with development work, will enable us to retain the opening the current opening hours, with a strong potential for extended hours as other resources are secured and services are developed.

How will we do this?

Through **Collaboration**: We will work with Library staff, Oscott Councillors, local Voluntary and Community sector organisations, existing library users, GP Practices, Council Services e.g. Social Services, and Oscott residents to develop and deliver services that will **Sustain Oscott Libraries**.

We will achieve sustainability through developing and extending a one stop Living Well Hub, through the creation of a team of dedicated and well trained Library volunteers (supported by WLCA's staff team) who will provide additional capacity to staff from Birmingham Libraries and WLCA. A dedicated officer will be employed to develop and coordinate a range of services on a **'Hub and Spoke' model**, exploiting WLCA's experience and existing service base to leverage additional services to be developed at both Perry Common and Kingstanding Libraries. These services include:

- Housing and neighbourhood management advice and support
- Health and wellbeing services
- Employment and skills advice and support
- Family activities and learning

We require funding for one full-time staff post (or 2 x part time) to develop and coordinate the one stop Living Well model at both libraries; capital infrastructure – ICT/ equipment; training budget and support costs for volunteers.

The key objectives of this service will be;

1. To maintain current Library opening hours and introduce new services which meet local community needs, aiding the sustainability of Perry Common and Kingstanding libraries.
2. To work collaboratively with the Library service to add value to current library functions so that residents are able to borrow a book, access IT etc. as well as obtain housing advice, jobs and skills support and health and wellbeing activities

Active Citizenship: WLCA has an active volunteer programme (circa 50 volunteers) and we currently have 11 'Wellbeing Volunteers' who act as befrienders, mentors and activity organisers. They are all local residents and have benefited from a 12 week Wellbeing Training Programme to upskill and help them to improve their CV's. They have undertaken training in the following areas;

- Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Data Protection & Confidentiality
- Adult Safeguarding
- First Aid
- Lone Working
- Equality & Diversity
- LGBT Health Inequalities
- Listening Skills
- Peer Mentoring
- Suicide Prevention
- Mental Health Awareness
- Domestic Violence Awareness
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness

Our training programme for Library volunteers would include some of the above plus Safeguarding Children & Young People, Communication Skills, IT literacy and Library staff could train volunteers on basic library skills and using the self-service book return machines.

We work in partnership with local groups and organisations to recruit many of our volunteers, from people wishing to gain training and work experience, through to residents who are retired and want to give something back to their community.

Our emphasis for **Sustaining Oscott Libraries** will be utilising and maximising community assets to assist and support library staff and library functions whilst maintaining a valuable community asset.

Time Frame – is it:-

One off event/programme

Implement and complete within 6 months (2016)

Implement and complete within 12 months (2017)

x

How will the innovation be implemented?

Sustaining Oscott Libraries is supported and championed by the WLCA Board and Chief Officer at the highest levels. Operationally, it will be delivered by the Wellbeing and Employment Teams of WLCA and 1 FTE post and team of volunteers.

WLCA will work in collaboration with the library services, local elected members and other local organisations and groups to develop and deliver services, ensuring there is genuine local ownership which is critical in ensuring the sustainability of the project beyond the funded period.

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:

1. Broader range of services and current Library opening hours maintained.
2. For residents accessing services
 - Improved health and wellbeing of older residents
 - Increased qualifications and skills and numbers moving into employment
 - Increased satisfaction as a result of the new Library and Living Well services
3. Trained group of volunteers offering a broad range of Library and Living Well services

Measuring Impact:

Working with the library service, we will establish an initial baseline position for a suite of indicators. We will undertake surveys after 6 and 12 months to measure impact and change.

We will also utilise **Outcomes Star** to assess and monitor progress and the change in individuals, working with volunteers and library users to chart their journey. We are already licensed users and trainers of Outcomes Star and the national database will provide hard data and comparisons to other communities and service users who are assessed using Outcomes Star.

Legacy: the legacy from this innovation will be embedded into our 'Flourishing Communities' Programme, WLCA's community development strand that is resourced from revenue from our mainstream funds and supplemented through external funding. Our core revenue is from rents and this enables us to sustain initiatives beyond the shelf life of project funding. It enables us to **resource priorities directly**. Essentially we would seek to retain the post as this would support the ongoing management and development of our services, however, worst case scenario, we would continue to deliver the service with the existing WLCA team.

Learning: We will easily measure impact through Outcomes Star. We will continuously monitor data from the 2 Library Hubs and report back to Ward Committees and appropriate local and city-wide groups and fora. In addition we will host a dissemination event towards the end of the funded period to share learning.

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

WLCA revenue
Reaching Communities – Big Lottery
Aging Better
Youth Employment Initiative

What resources will be required?

- Capital	23,500
- Running costs	67,400
- People power volunteers	7,000

Amount required from LIF **£ 48000**

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind? £49,900 (cash and in kind)

Contact person for proposal

NameSarah Blackstock.....

Telephone ...0121 382 1930.....

E-mail: sarah.blackstock@wittonlodge.org.uk.....

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

Multiple meetings with the library service during 2016 & 2017

Correspondence and meetings with Oscott Councillors and BCC staff during late 2016 and early 2017.

Discussed at

Ward meeting

Date

Signatures of all 3 Ward Councillors

Name Barbara Dyer Signature Barbara Dyer Date 29/3/17
 Name KATH LINNELL Signature Keith Linnell Date 29.3.2017
 Name TRISTAN CHATFIELD Signature Tristan Chatfield Date 04.4.17

Internal use only

Received: Date

Go to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership for decision: Date

Approved

Yes	
No	

