

Cabinet

6 March 2018

Appendix 3

**Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy
Rationale and Impact Assessment for a
Needs Based Library Service**

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1 Purpose of this document

Purpose of this document

- 1.1 This document provides further assessment of the rationale and impact for the changes to the library service contained within the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy. It is one of a series of documents produced to support the Strategy, which are as follows:

Figure 1 Schematic of Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy and supporting documents

Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy						
Appendix 1 Rationale and Impact Assessment for a Needs-Based Library Service						
Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment						
Appendix 3 Summary of Technical Appendices						
Technical Appendix 1	Technical Appendix 2	Technical Appendix 3	Technical Appendix 4	Technical Appendix 5	Technical Appendix 6	Technical Appendix 7
National and Local Context	Needs Assessment	Service Description and Analysis	Property Assessment	Accessibility Analysis	Strategic Outcomes and Gap Analysis	Delivery Model Options Appraisal

- 1.2 Based on the findings of the Technical Appendices and the draft Equalities Impact Assessment this document provides further detail on:
- The ways in which people will be able to access the Library and Information Service and those parts of the service which we will stop providing
 - The likely impact of the changes on library users, the population as a whole and also those with protected characteristics, and the mitigations to address those impacts
- 1.3 The Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy aims to create a modern, affordable Library and Information Service for East Sussex, which prioritises the needs of the county and is able to adapt to future needs.
- 1.4 The term ‘needs’, in this context includes the general requirement that adults and children have a reasonable ability to access reading materials, information and the range of other resources that meet their general and special requirements, for the various benefits that these can provide. It also

takes account of the particular needs of different communities (both of people and place) who face greater disadvantage than others.

- 1.5 For many people the obvious focus would be around reading and literacy when considering the needs that a library service can meet. However, in developing the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy, we have set out to identify the wider needs that the Library and Information Service may be well-placed to help meet, either on its own or in partnership with others, within the resources that are available.
- 1.6 The development of the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy also took into account our legal responsibilities for providing a library service. This approach, and the detailed process of review that has been undertaken, are described in this and in the other Technical Appendices.
- 1.7 An affordable and adaptable Library and Information Service means that it will be able to respond to a number of common challenges facing library services across the UK, including:
 - the significant budget pressures facing councils, both in terms of a reduction in grant allocated to councils at the same time as an increase in demand for key services, such as social care
 - a decrease in library use related to a shift in consumer behaviour, with increasing access to reading materials, information and public and paid services online
 - the changing needs brought about by a growing and ageing population and the move increasingly toward a knowledge based economy and the effects of a long period of financial uncertainty
- 1.8 The Strategy has been produced using the Strategic Commissioning Framework, our business planning process for all East Sussex County Council service redesign.

2 Rationale for a needs-based library service

Access to library services

- 2.1. Currently there are a number of different ways to access the Library and Information Service. These include library buildings, the eLibrary and the Mobile Library. A free Home Library Service is offered to people who cannot easily use a library due to disability or frailty, or are caring for someone who cannot be left. The Council also provides support to the Northiam Village a community book swap, which is not part of the statutory library provision of the county.
- 2.2 Based on the evidence of need, a mix of different access to services will still be delivered, but more appropriately reflecting changes in use. This will include access to services in libraries but increasingly online and in other settings; other service locations, community venues and people's homes.
- 2.3 The remainder of this section describes, in detail, access to library services under the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy.

eLibrary

- 2.4 The eLibrary has changed the way in which people are able to access library services, at any time, no matter where they are. By using the eLibrary, people can download reading materials, access information resources (including some resources that the Library and Information Service provides for free, but which people would have to pay for outside of the eLibrary), watch training videos or look up community information on ESCIS.
- 2.5 ESCIS, the East Sussex Community Information Service, is a website hosted by the Library and Information Service, providing up to date details of community organisations and events across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. ESCIS can be accessed by anyone who can get online. Anyone wishing to access ESCIS within a library can do so, either by using the People's Network computers to visit the website or by asking a member of library staff to look up information for them.
- 2.6 The eLibrary also offers the ability to manage library loans more conveniently online between library visits. It provides the opportunity to 'click and collect', as with retailers, allowing people to search the library catalogue online and reserve items to collect from a library knowing they will be available, or to renew items for longer, reducing the need to visit a library as often.
- 2.7 Despite the potential benefits, however, the evidence suggests that awareness of the range of eLibrary services among the general population of East Sussex is still very low. There has been a lack of targeted promotion of

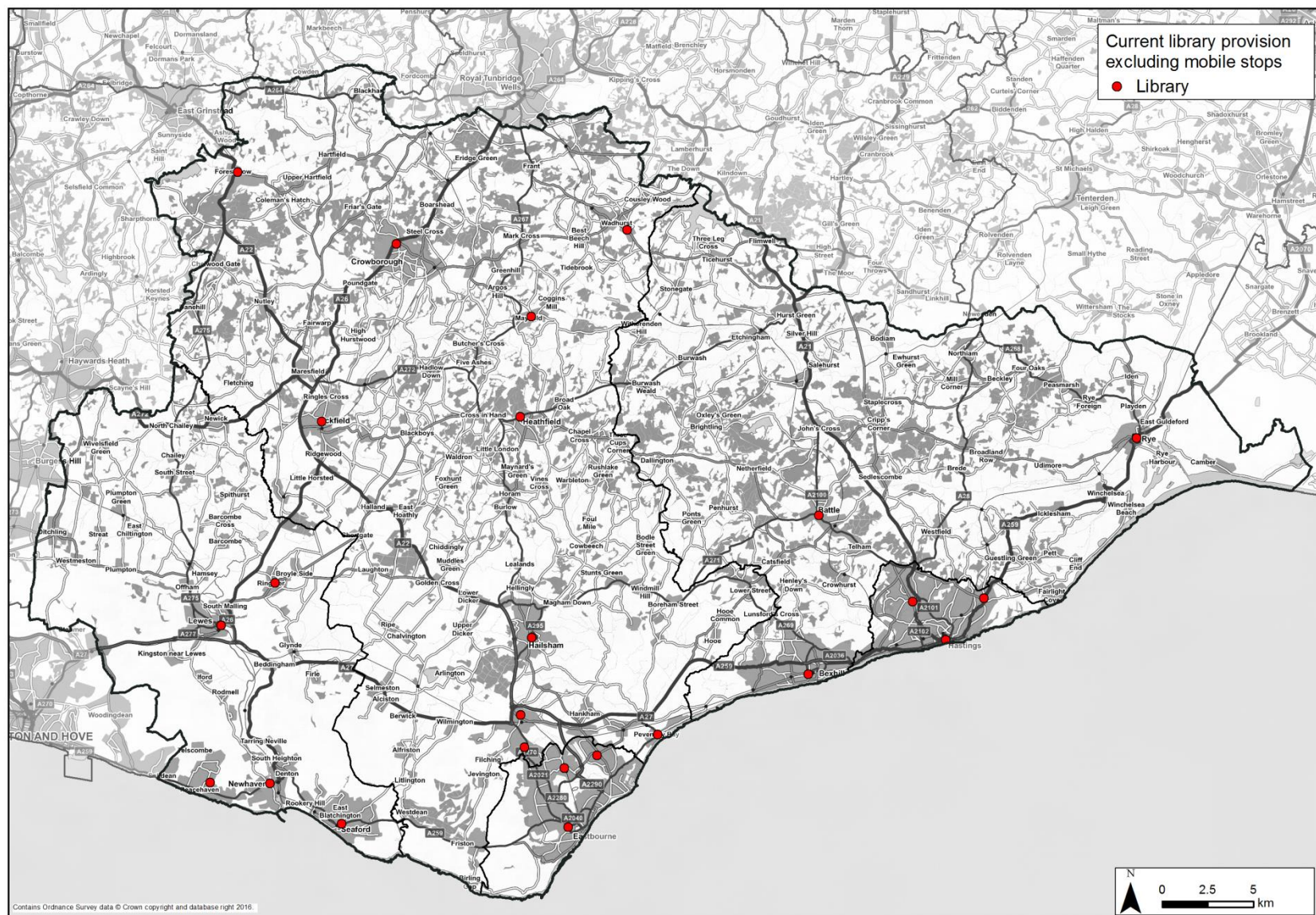
the eLibrary and support offered to help people with the skills to use it effectively, although this has been addressed to a much greater extent in recent years.

- 2.8 Although the eLibrary has the potential to serve a much wider cross-section of the local population than it does at present and use is increasing, we recognise that the shift toward online information, books and services is unlikely to replace the need either for library buildings or for printed reading materials altogether.
- 2.9 The eLibrary, therefore, will continue to be enhanced, with an expanded range of materials and services and more targeted promotion, as an integral part of a modern library service for East Sussex. This will enable us to meet needs by responding increasingly to changes in consumer behaviour and in a way that is more cost effective for the service. We will promote the eLibrary through:
- A new step by step video guides on our website, which will show users all of the different things that they can do with the eLibrary, from downloading eBooks and eMagazines, to searching the catalogue and reserving or renewing an item
 - Continuing to include regular articles on the eLibrary and the resources it has available to users in our monthly e-newsletter to all library members whose email addresses we hold
 - Ensuring our computer buddies and staff are on hand within libraries to provide any customers who would like a demonstration or help in accessing the eLibrary.

Library buildings

- 2.10 By visiting a library, people are able to read or borrow books and access reliable sources of information, use computers, work or study and take part in literacy and training sessions. Although these remain the way that most people use the library service, fewer people are visiting libraries year on year.
- 2.11 Currently there is a network of 24 library buildings across East Sussex, as shown in **Map 1**, below.

Map 1 **Current East Sussex library network**



2.12 The Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy has determined that a smaller network of library buildings is required in order to provide a needs-based library service, based upon the following considerations:

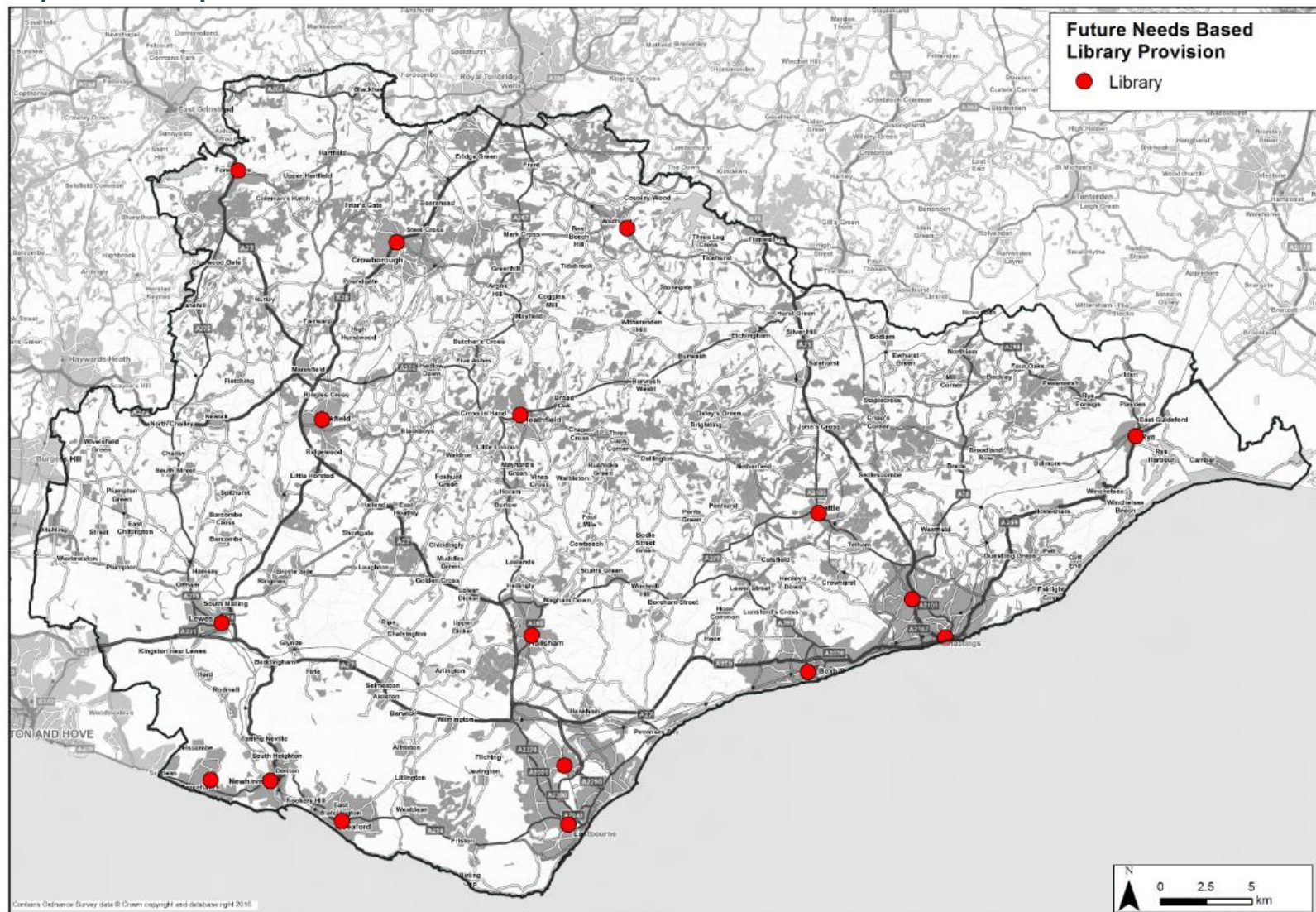
- National research of the types and duration of journey people make, which shows that a journey time of 20 to 25 minutes to a library by public transport and car is reasonable (see Technical Appendix 5, Accessibility Analysis, section 3).
- The availability of the eLibrary, as a modern and cost effective part of the library service, to support the services available in library buildings (see Technical Appendix 5, Accessibility Analysis, section 6)
- The different levels of need in communities across East Sussex and the potential for the Library and Information Service to deliver greater benefits where needs are greatest (see Technical Appendix 2, Needs Assessment).
- The overall resources available to provide the library service, along with the cost effectiveness of individual library buildings

2.13 In the two larger urban areas of the county, Eastbourne and Hastings, where there are currently more libraries within a smaller geographic area, we have considered whether it is necessary to retain all of the libraries currently provided in order to meet the identified needs, or whether needs could still be met locally with fewer libraries. Where it is the case that needs could be met without all of the current libraries, we have considered which libraries would be best placed to deliver the service. In these cases, other factors have also been taken into account, such as the relative cost and condition of different buildings and opportunities to use the space within them more effectively. It is important to note, however, that the primary consideration of whether to retain a library or not is based on meeting identified needs.

2.14 Based on these considerations, 17 libraries will be retained from the current network of 24 libraries to provide a needs-based library service, as shown in **Map 2**. These are, in alphabetical order:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| ▪ Battle | ▪ Hollington |
| ▪ Bexhill | ▪ Lewes |
| ▪ Crowborough | ▪ Newhaven |
| ▪ Eastbourne | ▪ Peacehaven |
| ▪ Forest Row | ▪ Rye |
| ▪ Hailsham | ▪ Seaford |
| ▪ Hampden Park | ▪ Uckfield |
| ▪ Hastings | ▪ Wadhurst |
| ▪ Heathfield | |

Map 2 **Map of needs-based network of libraries**



2.15 Seven of our current 24 libraries will not be retained. The following table summarises the rationale for each library.

Table 1 Rationale for each of the seven libraries which will not be retained

Library	Rationale
Langney	<p>The needs assessment shows high levels of need around both Langney and Hampden Park Libraries. The proximity of both libraries to each other and to Eastbourne Library means that it is possible to meet needs in Hampden Park and Langney by retaining one library and through the wider range of services provided in Eastbourne Library. Off-peak journey times from Langney Library to Hampden Park Library are 16 minutes by bus, or between 20 and 30 minutes to Eastbourne Library, and four minutes by car.</p> <p>Langney has a lower percentage (32%) of registered members aged under 16 compared to Hampden Park (37%) and the needs assessment identifies child literacy and numeracy as key needs which the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy is well-placed to address.</p> <p>The costs for Langney Library are relatively high because it is in a commercial retail unit within a shopping centre and the County Council pays rent for it, whereas Hampden Park Library is owned by the Council, so it has lower running costs.</p> <p>We will introduce Rhymetime, Storytime and Computer Buddy sessions at Hampden Park library to replace those which will cease to be provided at Langney Library.</p> <p>In addition to the provision of libraries in Hampden Park and Eastbourne, we will deliver an outreach service in Langney. A new children and family library offer will be provided in Shinewater Children's Centre, including free Rhymetime and Storytime sessions, free children's books swap and access to training for parents/carers.</p> <p>This targeted outreach service for children and families is identified by the needs assessment as being one of the groups which the Library and Information Service is well-placed to support and will help to achieve the Strategic Outcomes.</p>
Mayfield	<p>The needs assessment shows that, overall, Mayfield is in a very low area of need. The library is, therefore, not required in order to provide a library service which prioritises resources based on need. Off-peak journey times from Mayfield Library to Heathfield Library are 12 minutes by bus and 9 minutes by car.</p>
Ore	<p>There are currently four libraries in Hastings, the main Hastings Library and Hastings Children's Library in the town centre, and two libraries in Ore and Hollington. Hastings main library is currently being refurbished and will reopen in the spring of 2018. In the meantime, a temporary library is being provided from Hastings Children's Library. When the main library reopens Hastings Children's Library will merge with it and will no longer be separate. It will provide state of the art library facilities, more public space, a new learning suite and other facilities.</p>

Library	Rationale
Ore (continued)	<p>The needs assessment shows very high levels of need around Ore, Hollington and the Hastings main library. The proximity of all three libraries means that it is possible to meet needs in these communities by retaining the completely refurbished Hastings Library plus either Hollington or Ore libraries. Off-peak journey times from Ore Library to Hastings Library are 18 minutes by bus and six minutes by car.</p> <p>In addition to the provision of libraries in Hollington and Hastings, we will provide a new children and family library offer at East Hastings Children's Centre (situated in Ore), including free Rhymetime and Storytime sessions, free children's books swap and access to training for parents/carers.</p> <p>This targeted outreach service for children and families is identified by the needs assessment as being one of the groups which the Library and Information Service is well-placed to support and will help to achieve the Strategic Outcomes.</p>
Pevensey Bay	<p>The needs assessment shows that Pevensey Bay is not in a priority area of need. The library is, therefore, not required in order to provide a library service which prioritises resources based on need.</p> <p>A new children and family library offer will be provided in Shinewater Children's Centre including free Rhymetime and Storytime sessions, free children's books swap and access to training for parents/carers.</p> <p>Off-peak journey times from Pevensey Bay Library to Eastbourne Library are 20 minutes by bus and 11 minutes by car to Hampden Park Library. Off-peak journey times by car from Pevensey Bay to Shinewater are 9 minutes by car and from 23 to 39 minutes by bus, subject to connections.</p>
Polegate	<p>The needs assessment shows that Polegate Library is not in a priority area of need. The library is, therefore, not required in order to provide a library service which prioritises resources on need.</p> <p>We propose to introduce Rhymetime, Storytime and Computer Buddy sessions at Hampden Park library to replace those which will cease to be provided at Polegate Library.</p> <p>Frequent public transport links connect Polegate with Hampden Park, Eastbourne and Hailsham libraries. Off-peak journey times from Polegate Library to Eastbourne Library are 30 minutes by bus, or seven to 10 minutes by train, and seven minutes by car to Hailsham Library.</p>
Ringmer	<p>The needs assessment shows that Ringmer Library is in a very low area of need. The library is, therefore, not required in order to provide a library service which prioritises resources based on need. Off-peak journey times from Ringmer Library to Lewes Library are 10 minutes by bus and nine minutes by car.</p>
Willingdon	<p>The needs assessment shows that Willingdon Library is not in a priority area of need. The library is, therefore, not required in order to provide a library service which prioritises resources based on need.</p> <p>We proposed to introduce Rhymetime sessions at Hampden Park library</p>

Library	Rationale
Willingdon (continued)	to replace those which would cease to be provided at Willingdon Library. Storytime sessions and Computer Buddies will also be available at Hampden Park Library. Off-peak journey times from Willingdon Library to Eastbourne Library are 18 minutes by bus and six minutes by car to Hampden Park Library.

- 2.16 In May 2017 there were 18,381 registered members for these seven libraries, representing a relatively small proportion, only 8%, of total registered members for the library service. **Table 4**, in Annex 1, provides a breakdown of the number of registered members for each of these seven libraries. Based on registered home addresses, our analysis shows that 100% of the members of these seven libraries live within a 20 minute journey time by car to one of the 17 remaining libraries, and over 96% are within a 30 minute journey time by public transport.

Rural access (including Mobile Library Service and village library)

- 2.17 74% of the population of East Sussex live in urban areas and 26% in rural areas, according to the 2011 Census. In developing the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy, the needs of communities in more rural areas have been considered, where access to a library may be more limited than in urban areas, for example due to greater distances and fewer public transport options.
- 2.18 The Mobile Library Service has traditionally provided an alternative to travelling to a library building for more rural communities. The Mobile Library is a wheelchair accessible vehicle which offers a three weekly service to 88 stops across the county. Each stop lasts between 15 minutes and 2 hours and 10 minutes. The most frequent length of a stop is 30 minutes. The Mobile Library carries a stock of approximately 2,000 items.
- 2.19 There are 2,928 registered members of the Mobile Library Service, representing only 1% of total registered library users. If the rural libraries of Mayfield, Pevensey Bay and Ringmer, are added this equates to 5,757 registered members or 2.5% of total registered members.
- 2.20 At the majority of stops, the number of customers that access the mobile service is extremely low with 72 (81.8%) of the 88 stops having on average fewer than 10 customers per visit in 2016. Of these 72 stops, 34 stops had between 0 and 5 customers on average per visit. Twelve stops (13.6%) had between 10 to 15 customers on average per visit, whereas four stops (4.5%) had more than 20 customers on average per visit. These four stops were Westfield, Geary Place (21 customers), Groombridge, Village Hall (32 customers), Fairlight Cove, Shepherd's Way (35) and Ticehurst, Car Park (52 customers).

- 2.21 The Mobile Library Service will not be retained as part of a needs based library service, given the limitations, the relative low use of Mobile Library stops and the fact that it overwhelmingly serves communities of low levels of need. The network of 17 libraries has been determined to ensure reasonable journey times to libraries, by both public transport and car, across the whole county, for rural and urban areas alike. Increasingly, access to services using the eLibrary allows people to supplement visits to a library without the limitations of the frequency and duration of Mobile Library stops.
- 2.22 53 of the 88 Mobile Library stops (60.2%) are within a 10 minute drive of one of the proposed 17 libraries. On average seven customers use the Mobile Library at each of these stops. 35 stops (39.7%) are within a 20 minute drive. On average five customers use the Mobile Library at each of these stops. By public transport, 82 of the 88 Mobile Library stop locations are served by public transport to an alternative library building, on a day when the closest alternative library is open, of which 76 have a journey time of 30 minutes or under.
- 2.23 Six locations have journey times of more than 30 minutes by public transport, including Bodiam, Brede, Ditchling, Ewhurst Green, Hurst Green, and Wivelsfield. On average seven customers use the Mobile Library at each of these stops. From each of these locations it takes between 33 and 42 minutes by public transport to access a library within the proposed network of 17. **Table 5**, in Annex 1, provides a full breakdown of journey times to an alternative library from each of the 88 Mobile Library stops.
- 2.24 In four locations currently served by the Mobile Library (Bodle Street Green, Chiddingfold, Crowhurst Blacksmith's Field and Fairwarp) there is no public bus service, due to lack of demand, within a short walk of the Mobile Library stop. On average five customers use the Mobile Library in each of these locations. In two locations currently served by the Mobile library (Arlington and Ripe) the public bus runs on days of the week when the closest alternative library, Hailsham, is closed. On average, five customers use the Mobile Library each visit in Arlington and two in Ripe.
- 2.25 67% of those library customers registered to the Mobile Library currently use only the Mobile Library, and no other library building, to borrow items. There are a higher proportion of older library users, aged over 75, of the Mobile Library than other libraries. For the Mobile Library user group as a whole, therefore, we recognise that the ability to travel to another library or the likelihood that this group will be able to use the eLibrary is more limited.
- 2.26 The Library and Information Service also supports Northiam Village Library, a volunteer-led community book swap which offers a limited selection of books to the local community from 2pm to 4pm on Thursday and Saturday each week. This support takes the form of a regular supply of library books and a financial contribution towards the rent, rates and electricity costs of the village library, amounting to almost £1,300 per year. However, Northiam Village Library is not part of the East Sussex Library and Information Service and we do not provide this kind of support to any other community-run book swap.

- 2.27 In the past year, there were a total of just under 1,000 visits to the village library, around 83 visits on average each month. There are 348 residents of Northiam who are members of the ESCC library service, the majority of whom (241) are registered to Rye Library. Off-peak journey times from Northiam Village Library to Rye Library are 28 minutes by bus and 17 minutes by car. Bexhill Library is also well used by residents of Northiam.
- 2.28 The needs assessment shows that Northiam Village Library is not in a priority area of need. In order to direct resources to where they are needed we will no longer provide support to it.
- 2.29 As we implement the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy, we will look to help mitigate for the impact of the proposals by supporting community led solutions, so long as we are able to provide them within available resources.
- 2.30 In addition, we will introduce a new Community Library Membership in 2018/19. This will allow communities to borrow a range of items which can be made available locally to the community.
- 2.31 The Community Library Membership will require someone in the community to apply for the Community Library Membership and to take a lead role to organise the collection and make it available. For example, it could be co-ordinated by a member of a Town or Parish Council, a member of a community organisation or a local volunteer. The collection could be made available within a village hall, community café or a similar setting, but it would need to be somewhere that the public have access to, and where the collection can be properly looked after.
- 2.32 We will provide a core collection (the number of items will depend on the size of the community) and then it will be possible for the Community Library Member to change the stock by making a selection online from our Community Library Catalogue and exchanging stock at a library of their choice. The Community Library Member would do this on a voluntary basis.
- 2.33 Further provisions, to mitigate for the impact on library users who will have to travel further in order to visit the nearest library as a result of the withdrawal of the Mobile Library and funding and stock to Northiam Village Library, have also been identified, as described below.
- 2.34 We will continue to expand the range of online services and materials that are offered through the eLibrary, our online library service. We will actively promote the benefits of the eLibrary to different groups according to their needs in the following ways:
- New step by step video guides on our website, which will show users all of the different things that they can do with the eLibrary, from downloading eBooks and eMagazines, to searching the catalogue and reserving or renewing an item.

- We will continue to include regular articles on the eLibrary and the resources it has available to users in our monthly e-newsletter to all library members whose email addresses we hold
 - Our computer buddies and staff will be on hand within libraries to provide any customers who would like a demonstration or help in accessing the eLibrary.
- 2.35 We will aim to provide a book drop facility at each of the 17 libraries, so that loaned items can be returned even if the library is closed, meaning that people will not be fined for late returns.
- 2.36 We will continue to offer our Home Library Service to provide reading materials for isolated or vulnerable residents, and we will enhance it by offering Make Every Contact Count training for Home Library Service volunteers, to enable them to support vulnerable individuals in their physical and mental health through signposting and early intervention.
- 2.37 At present our Home Library Service has enough volunteers to serve all of our isolated and vulnerable customers, but we will work with partners to develop additional volunteering capacity and opportunities within the service, to ensure that we retain the capacity to continue to serve an increasingly elderly population with more complex needs.
- 2.38 Initial discussions have taken place with the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service to explore opportunities for joint working. We will also continue to advertise volunteering opportunities via our ESCC website, in libraries, and through our existing voluntary and community sector networks, for county-wide volunteering opportunities.

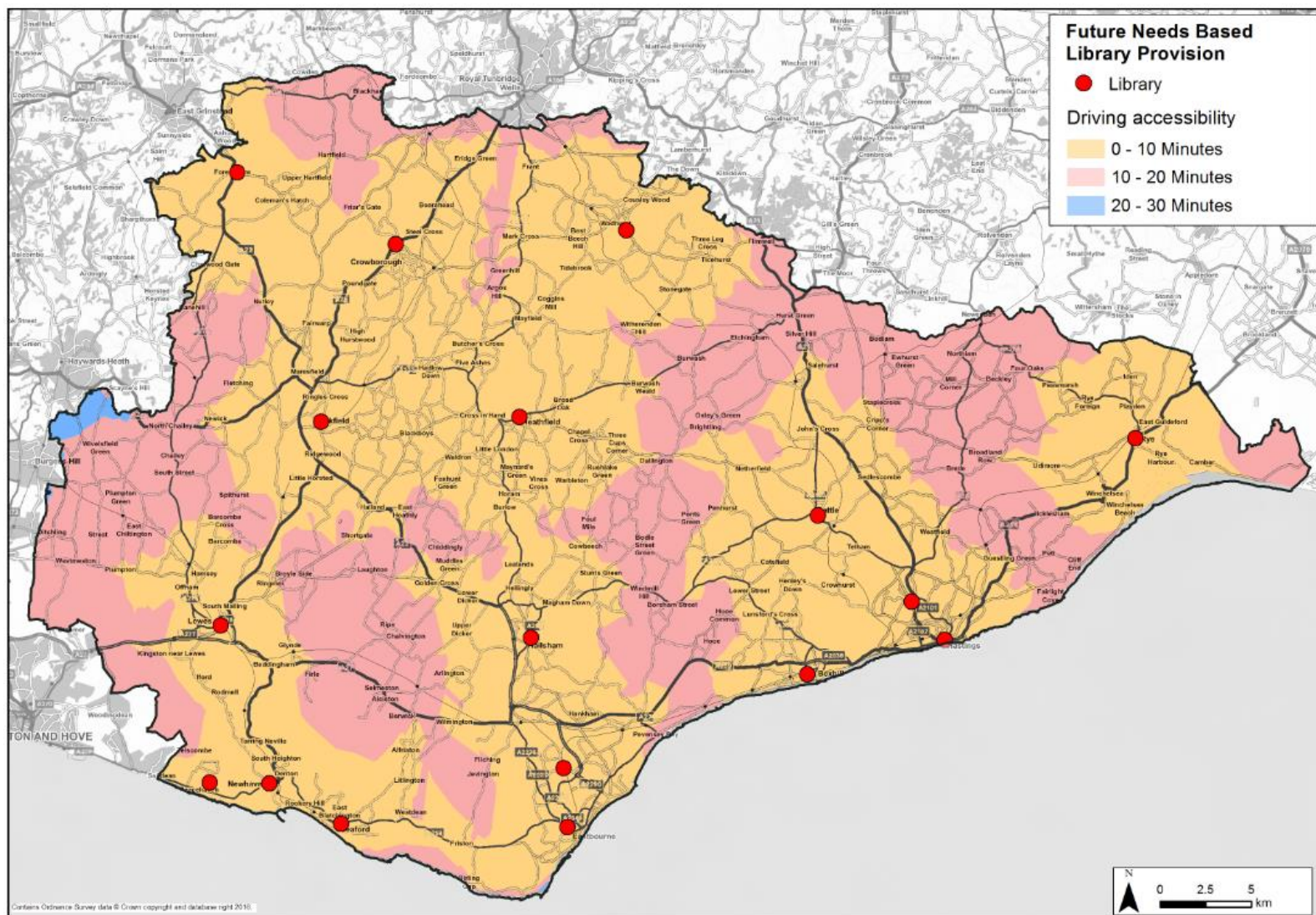
3 Impacts of a needs-based library service

Impacts of the needs-based library service and further mitigations

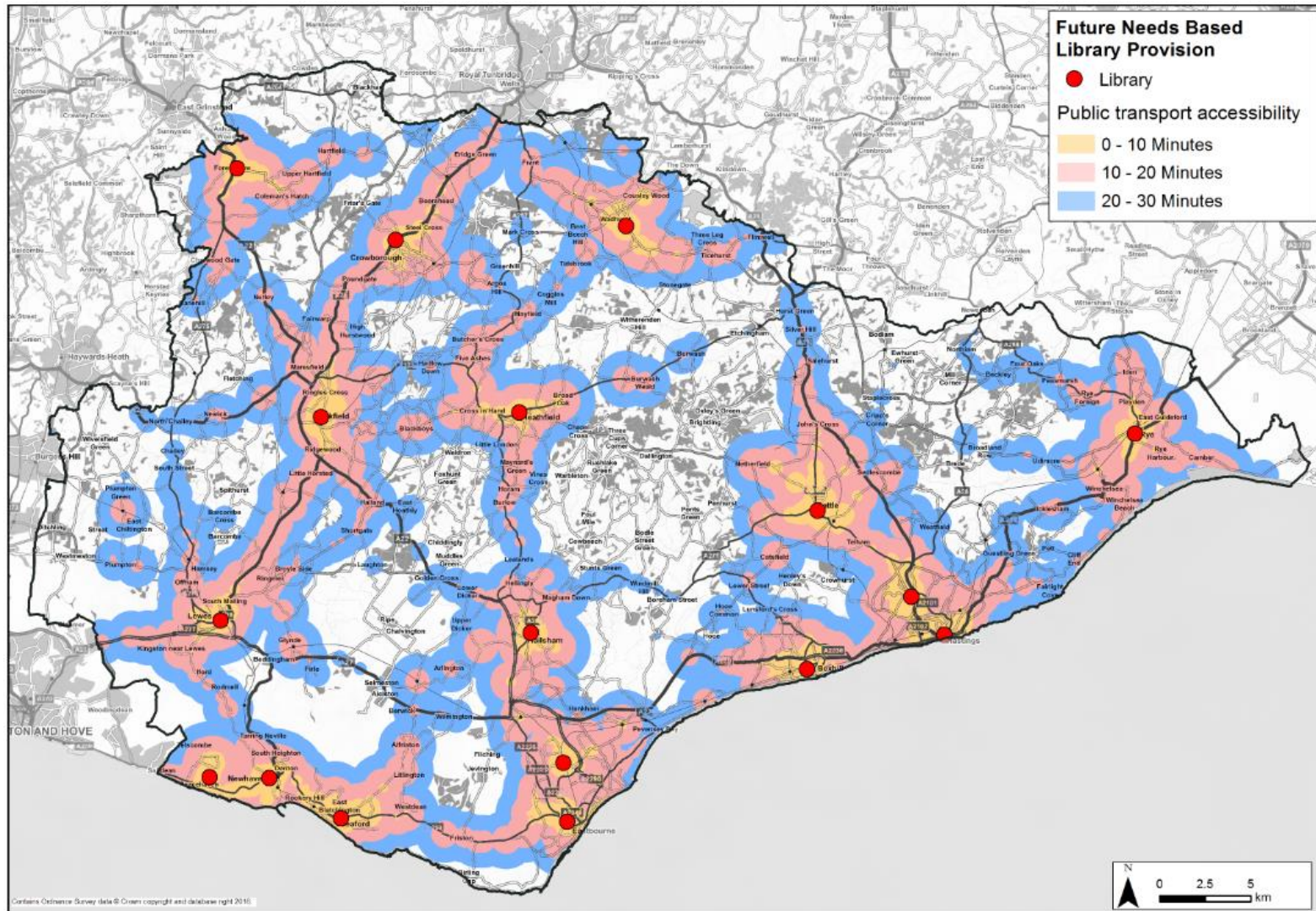
- 3.1 Journey times for the population of East Sussex to the network of 17 libraries by public transport, driving and walking have been analysed and the results are shown in **Maps 3 to 5**, below. For each map journey times are broken down into intervals of 0-10, 10-20 and 20-30 minutes¹.

¹ 0-10 minutes is 0 to 9 minutes and 59 seconds; 10-20 minutes is 10 minutes to 19 minutes and 59 seconds, 20-30 minutes is 20 Minutes to 29 minutes and 59 seconds.

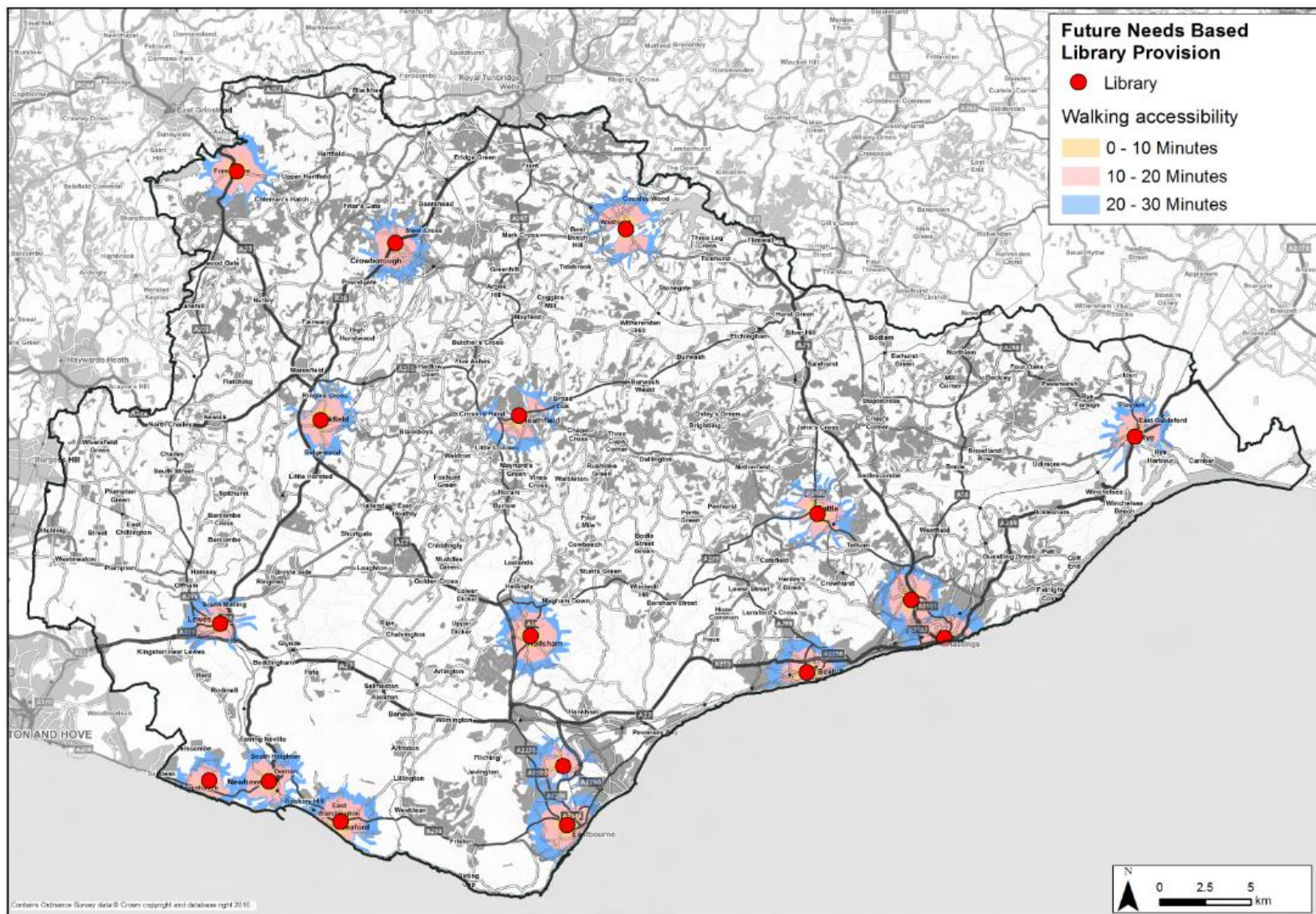
Map 3 Future Needs based library provision, driving accessibility within 30 minutes



Map 4 Future Needs based library provision, public transport accessibility within 30 minutes



Map 5 Future Needs based library provision, walking accessibility within 30 minutes



- 3.2 The overall impact of the network of 17 libraries on library users will be that 8% of registered members will no longer be able to access the library that they are currently registered to. This means that 92% of all library users are largely unaffected by the proposals.
- 3.3 **Table 2** shows the percentage of the total population and **Table 3** the cumulative population totals for East Sussex within a 10, 20 and 30 minute journey time of a library by car, public transport, and walking. The percentage calculations are based on a total population of 527,521, in the 2011 Census.

Table 2 Population totals within half an hour journey time to libraries (current and new)

		Journey time in minutes								
		Public Transport			Driving			Walking		
		0-10	10-20	20-30	0-10	10-20	20-30	0-10	10-20	20-30
No. of residents within journey time	Current library network & Mobile Library	380,428	131,466	12,448	527,108	413	0	119,851	180,616	160,338
	Current library network only	307,975	161,783	37,461	496,817	29,982	722	86,113	170,113	140,967
	New library network	241,980	212,384	50,487	482,621	44,178	722	65,532	138,459	105,396
% of residents within journey time	Current library network & Mobile Library	72.1%	24.9%	2.4%	99.9%	0.1%	0.0%	22.7%	34.2%	30.4%
	Current library network only	58.4%	30.7%	7.1%	94.2%	5.7%	0.1%	16.3%	32.2%	26.7%
	New library network	45.9%	40.3%	9.6%	91.5%	8.4%	0.1%	12.4%	26.2%	20.0%

Table 3 Cumulative population totals within half an hour journey time to libraries (current and new)

		Journey time in minutes								
		Public Transport			Driving			Walking		
		0-10	0-20	0-30	0-10	0-20	0-30	0-10	0-20	0-30
No. of residents within journey time	Current library network & Mobile Library	380,428	511,894	524,342	527,108	527,521	527,521	119,851	300,467	460,805
	Current library network only	307,975	469,758	507,219	496,817	526,799	527,521	86,113	256,226	397,193
	New library network	241,980	454,364	504,851	482,621	526,799	527,521	65,532	203,991	309,387
% of residents within journey time	Current library network & Mobile Library	72.1%	97.0%	99.4%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	22.7%	57.0%	87.4%
	Current library network only	58.4%	89.1%	96.2%	94.2%	99.9%	100.0%	16.3%	48.6%	75.3%
	New library network	45.9%	86.1%	95.7%	91.5%	99.9%	100.0%	12.4%	38.7%	58.6%

3.4 Overall, the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy enables 95.7% of East Sussex residents to get to a library within half an hour by public transport (bus or train) and 100% by car. The current network of 24 libraries enables 96.2% of the population to get to a library within half an hour by public transport and 100% by car. If current Mobile Library stops are included, 99.4% are currently able to get to a library within half an hour by public transport and 100% by car.

3.5 This means that 86.1% of the population will be within a 20 minute journey time by public transport and 99.9% within a 20 minute journey by car. There will, therefore, continue to be a very high level of accessibility to a library within a reasonable travel time of 20 to 25 minutes by either mode. This compares with 89.1% by public transport and 99.9% by car for the current network of 24 libraries or 97% by public transport and 100% by car if current Mobile Library stops are included.

3.6 The largest impact will be on those walking to libraries. The current network of 24 libraries and Mobile Library stops enables 87.4% of the population to walk to a library within half an hour. Without Mobile Library stops, currently 75.3% of the population are able to walk to a library within 30 minutes. 58.6%

of the population will still be able to walk to a library within 30 minutes with the network of 17 libraries and without the Mobile Library.

- 3.7 The current network of 24 libraries and Mobile Library stops enables 57.0% of the population to walk to a library within 20 minutes and 22.7% within 10 minutes. Without Mobile Library stops, currently 48.6% of the population are able to walk to a library within 20 minutes and 16.3% within 10 minutes. 38.7% will still be able to walk to a library within 20 minutes and 12.4% within 10 minutes, with the network of 17 libraries and without the Mobile Library.
- 3.8 The analysis presents journey times to a library of the whole population of East Sussex, not only library users, to travel to a library. This is necessary in order to assess the ability of the service to meet the terms of the statutory duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service. It also based on an assumption that people will travel to the nearest library to their home. We know, from data on library users' home postcodes and where they have borrowed materials from, that this is not necessarily the case.
- 3.9 There are a number of other relevant considerations about journeys to libraries:
- People will commonly travel to libraries as part of combined trips to do other things, such as shopping or when they are at work
 - 66% of East Sussex library users visit a library between once or twice a week and once a fortnight, compared to 5% who visit daily
 - 55% of library users who were visiting a particular library also visit another library, including the Mobile Library
 - The most popular 'other' library visited was Eastbourne, which was visited as an additional library by 16% of library users
 - Only 23% of library users also used the eLibrary
 - Only 35% of library users only used one library and no other service
- 3.10 A final Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to identify those groups with protected characteristics who it is considered might be more affected than others by not retaining the seven libraries and no longer providing the Mobile Library Service and Northiam village library. The draft EqIA identified three main groups who it is considered might be more affected, as follows:
- Those aged 75 and over
 - Those with certain disabilities
 - Those in rural communities

- 3.11 Those aged 75 and over and those with certain disabilities are primarily identified for a common reason, in that they are likely to be less able to travel further to an alternative library and in some cases may be lacking the digital skills or technology to access the services via the eLibrary.
- 3.12 People aged 75 and over who, due to their age, are likely to be more affected by the proposals due to reduced mobility and therefore may find it harder to travel further to an alternative library. This age group are least likely to access the eLibrary due to a lack of digital skills and therefore may be unable to access the service in this way, without additional support. For those customers in this age group who are unable to visit an alternative library, due to frailty or mobility issues, the Home Library Service will be a suitable alternative way to access the service.
- 3.13 People with certain disabilities are likely to be more affected by the implementation of the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy due to the likelihood of being unable to travel further to an alternative library building, either on foot, by public transport or car. The changes also have the potential to impact those people with certain disabilities who, as a result of those disabilities, have to rely on a personal helper who may not be able to travel one of the alternative libraries. For those individuals unable to access a library themselves due to mobility issues, illness or their caring responsibilities, the Home Library Service is available. Current Home Library Service volunteers and customers that may be impacted by the proposals will be contacted during the consultation period to ensure that existing volunteers are able to access an alternative library to collect books, or alternatively, customers will be matched with a different volunteer. Some existing volunteers are waiting to be matched with a customer. Our eLibrary is also available 24 hours a day and advice and training on how to use the eLibrary will continue to be offered to customers of those libraries not included in the proposed future network prior to closure.
- 3.14 People in rural communities are likely to be more affected by the proposals if they use the Mobile Library Service, Northiam village library or Mayfield, Ringmer and Pevensey Bay libraries. However for those that have access to a car or are able to travel by public transport to an alternative library, the majority of the county will still be able to access the library in reasonable travel times. In addition, the eLibrary is available 24 hours a day which can enable customers to visit libraries less frequently as well as access a range of online materials. For those individuals in rural locations that are unable to travel to an alternative library themselves due to mobility issues, illness or their caring responsibilities, the Home Library Service is available.

Annex 1

Table 4, below, shows the nearest alternative library, by journey time rather than distance, from each of the seven libraries which will not be retained.

Table 4 Nearest alternative library from each of the seven libraries, based on journey time

Library	Registered members	Active users	Nearest alternative library (by public transport)	Public transport journey time	Route	Nearest alternative library (by car)	Car journey time
Langney	6,145	1,609	Eastbourne Hampden Park	20 or 30 minutes to Eastbourne 16 minutes to Hampden Park	1,1A,1X, twice an hour, and The Loop, up to 12 times per hour, to Eastbourne. The Loop, up to 3 journeys per hour, to Hampden Park	Hampden Park	4 minutes
Mayfield	680	219	Heathfield	12 minutes	251/252, up to 2 journeys per hour	Heathfield	9 minutes
Ore	3,174	747	Hastings	18 minutes	2, 22A, 28, 100, 101, 7 journeys per hour in total	Hastings	6 minutes
Pevensey Bay	1,683	473	Eastbourne	20 minutes	99, up to 3 journeys per hour	Hampden Park	11 minutes

Library	Registered members	Active users	Nearest alternative library (by public transport)	Public transport journey time	Route	Nearest alternative library (by car)	Car journey time
Polegate	3,880	1,434	Eastbourne Hailsham	33 minutes to Eastbourne 12 minutes to Hailsham 7 to 10 minutes by train to Eastbourne	51, 54, 98, up to 4 journeys per hour, to Eastbourne or Hailsham Train, up to four journeys per hour, to Eastbourne	Hailsham	7 minutes
Ringmer	466	228	Lewes	10 minutes	28, up to 2 journeys per hour	Lewes	9 minutes
Willingdon	2,353	810	Eastbourne	18 minutes	51, 54, 98, up to 4 journeys per hour	Hampden Park	6 minutes

Table 5, below, shows the nearest alternative library, by journey time rather than distance, from each of the 88 libraries mobile library stops. We will cease the Mobile Library Service.

Table 5 Nearest alternative library from each of the 88 Mobile Library stops, based on journey time

Mobile Library stop	Average number of visitors per stop	Next nearest library (by public transport)	Public transport journey time	Route	Next nearest library (by car)	Car journey time
Alfriston, Deans Road	8	Seaford	10 minutes	Service 126	Seaford	7 minutes
Arlington, Village Hall	5	Hailsham	14 minutes	Service 42 (Wednesday only, when library is closed)	Hailsham	9 minutes
Ashburnham, Church Road	4	Battle	15 minutes	Service B79	Battle	10 minutes
Barcombe, Weald View	8	Lewes	20 minutes	Service 122	Lewes	10 minutes
Beckley, Village Hall	9	Rye	20 minutes	Service 313	Rye	13 minutes
Bells Yew Green, Rushlye Close	2	Wadhurst	19 minutes	Service 256	Wadhurst	9 minutes
Berwick, Village Hall	0	Seaford (Eastbourne and Lewes)	32 minutes (9 to 14 minutes by train)	Service 40 (or train to Eastbourne or Lewes)	Seaford	12 minutes
Bexhill, Cowdray Park	12	Bexhill	20 minutes	Service 94 or 96	Bexhill	7 minutes
Blackboys, Mount Pleasant	9	Uckfield	15 minutes	Service 231	Heathfield	8 minutes
Bodiam, Levetts Lane	1	Hastings	42 minutes	Service 349	Battle	15 minutes
Bodle Street Green, Village Hall	6	Uckfield	15 minutes, Community Transport	No public bus due to lack of demand. Community transport available, upon request	Hailsham	13 minutes
Brede, Village Hall	7	Hastings	33 minutes	Service 2	Hollington	13 minutes
Brightling, Village Hall	6	Battle	12 minutes	Service 225	Battle	11 minutes
Broad Oak, Brede, Reedswood Road	9	Rye	20 minutes	Service 326	Rye	13 minutes
Burwash Weald, Scout Hall	8	Heathfield	14 minutes	Service 231	Heathfield	8 minutes
Burwash, Christ the King	6	Heathfield	19 minutes	Service 231	Heathfield	12 minutes

Mobile Library stop	Average number of visitors per stop	Next nearest library (by public transport)	Public transport journey time	Route	Next nearest library (by car)	Car journey time
Burwash, Rother View	6	Heathfield	22 minutes	Service 231	Wadhurst	12 minutes
Buxted, Buxted Court, Gordon Road	5	Uckfield	24 minutes	Service 248	Uckfield	7 minutes
Camber, Castle Public House	3	Rye	26 minutes	Service 100 or 101	Rye	9 minutes
Catsfield, Village Hall	5	Battle	15 minutes	Service 95	Battle	5 minutes
Chailey, Markstakes Corner	7	Lewes	26 minutes	Service 121	Lewes	13 minutes
Chelwood Gate, Village Hall	9	Forest Row	8 minutes	Service 270	Forest Row	8 minutes
Chiddingly, School	6	Uckfield	15 minutes, Community Transport	No public bus due to lack of demand. Community transport available upon request	Hailsham	10 minutes
Cooksbridge, Little Mead	5	Lewes	12 minutes	Service 121 or 122	Lewes	7 minutes
Cripps Corner, Northside Yard	3	Hastings	30 minutes	Service 349	Battle	9 minutes
Crowhurst, Blacksmith's Field	1	Hastings	25 minutes, Community Transport	No public bus due to lack of demand and train station is not within walking distance. Community Transport available upon request	Hollington	8 minutes
Crowhurst, Station Car Park	0	Hastings	13 minutes	Train No public bus due to lack of demand. Community Transport available upon request	Hollington	10 minutes
Dallington, Village Hall	11	Uckfield	27 minutes	Service 249	Heathfield	11 minutes
Danehill, Oak Tree Cottages	1	Forest Row	20 minutes	Service 270	Forest Row	10 minutes
Deanland, Mobile Home Park	13	Hailsham	20 minutes	Service 143	Hailsham	11 minutes
Ditchling, Dumbrell's Court	9	Lewes	42 minutes	Service 167	Lewes	16 minutes
East Dean, Village Hall	13	Eastbourne	12 minutes	Service 12/12X	Eastbourne	8 minutes

Mobile Library stop	Average number of visitors per stop	Next nearest library (by public transport)	Public transport journey time	Route	Next nearest library (by car)	Car journey time
East Hoathly, Church	8	Uckfield	15 minutes	Service 54	Uckfield	11 minutes
Etchingham, Village Hall	15	Heathfield	21 minutes	Service 231	Battle	15 minutes
Ewhurst, Village Street	4	Hastings	36 minutes	Service 349	Battle	14 minutes
Fairlight Cove, Shepherd's Way	35	Rye (or Hastings)	15 minutes (or 20 minutes)	Service 101	Hastings	12 minutes
Fairwarp, Foresters Arms	6	Uckfield	15 minutes, Community Transport	No public bus due to lack of demand. Community transport available upon request	Crowborough	8 minutes
Firle, opposite Post Office	8	Lewes	16 minutes	Service 125	Lewes	9 minutes
Flimwell, opposite Longbranch	3	Wadhurst	19 minutes	Service 254	Wadhurst	10 minutes
Framfield, Beckett's Way	5	Uckfield	9 minutes	Service 231	Uckfield	5 minutes
Framfield, Framelle Mount	1	Uckfield	10 minutes	Service 231	Uckfield	5 minutes
Frant, Village Hall	8	Wadhurst	13 minutes	Service 254	Wadhurst	9 minutes
Groombridge, The Ridge	6	Forest Row	22 minutes	Service 291	Crowborough	10 minutes
Groombridge, Village Hall	32	Forest Row	23 minutes	Service 291	Crowborough	10 minutes
Hailsham East, Community Centre	3	Hailsham	12 minutes	Service H1	Hailsham	4 minutes
Hartfield, Castle Fields	6	Forest Row	12 minutes	Service 291	Forest Row	10 minutes
Herstmonceux, Ridgeway	6	Hailsham	18 minutes	Service 98	Hailsham	10 minutes
Hooe, opposite Denbigh Court	9	Bexhill	20 minutes	Service 97	Bexhill	11 minutes
Horam, Horebeech Lane	12	Heathfield	18 minutes	Service 51	Heathfield	7 minutes
Hurst Green, Village Hall	6	Wadhurst	35 minutes	Service 254	Battle	12 minutes
Icklesham, Old Post Office	6	Rye	14 minutes	Service 100	Rye	10 minutes
Iden, Village Hall	3	Rye	8 minutes	Service 312	Rye	6 minutes
Laughton, School	2	Lewes	21 minutes	Service 143	Hailsham	12 minutes
Maresfield, Village Hall	2	Uckfield	9 minutes	Service 31	Uckfield	6 minutes
Mark Cross, Mark Cross Inn	4	Heathfield	19 minutes	Service 251	Wadhurst	7 minutes

Mobile Library stop	Average number of visitors per stop	Next nearest library (by public transport)	Public transport journey time	Route	Next nearest library (by car)	Car journey time
Mountfield, Hoath Hill	4	Battle	9 minutes	Services B71-B75	Battle	5 minutes
Netherfield, Netherfield Stores	4	Battle	9 minutes	Service 225/B72/B74/B75	Battle	7 minutes
Newick, South Rough	8	Uckfield	18 minutes	Service 31	Uckfield	10 minutes
Ninfield, Downsview	10	Bexhill	19 minutes	Service 98	Battle	8 minutes
Normans Bay, Caravan Park	12	Bexhill	9 minutes	Train No public bus due to lack of demand	Bexhill	10 minutes
Northiam, Station Road, opposite The Paddock	5	Rye	22 minutes	Service 313	Rye	17 minutes
Nutley, Fords Green layby	6	Uckfield	14 minutes	Service 261	Uckfield	11 minutes
Peasmarsh, Memorial Hall	6	Rye	9 minutes	Service 313	Rye	8 minutes
Pett, Church of England	14	Hastings	25 minutes	Service 347	Hastings	11 minutes
Playden, Poppyfields	1	Rye	7 minutes	Service 312 or 313	Rye	5 minutes
Plumpton, Village Hall	6	Heathfield	8 minutes	Service 225	Lewes	14 minutes
Punnetts Town, opposite the School	2	Heathfield	8 minutes	Service 225	Heathfield	5 minutes
Ripe, opposite Lamb Inn	2	Hailsham	19 minutes	Service 42 (Wednesdays only, when library is closed)	Hailsham	13 minutes
Robertsbridge, near George Inn	7	Battle	16 minutes	Service 304 or 305	Battle	8 minutes
Rotherfield, The School	6	Crowborough	12 minutes	Service 224/225/226	Crowborough	8 minutes
Rye, Tilling Green	2	Rye	5 minutes	Service 326	Rye	3 minutes
Sedlescombe, Park Shaw	15	Hastings	25 minutes	Service 349	Battle	7 minutes
Selmeston, Village Hall	6	Lewes	19 minutes	Service 125	Polegate	11 minutes
St Leonards, Bulverhythe Road	4	Hastings	15 minutes	Service 98 or 99	Hollington	7 minutes
Staplecross, Cricketers Field	2	Hollington	25 minutes	Service 349	Battle	11 minutes

Mobile Library stop	Average number of visitors per stop	Next nearest library (by public transport)	Public transport journey time	Route	Next nearest library (by car)	Car journey time
Stonegate, Village Hall	10	Battle	16 minutes	Train No public bus due to lack of demand.	Wadhurst	6 minutes
Three Oaks, Village Hall	7	Rye	10 minutes	Train No public bus due to lack of demand.	Hollington	10 minutes
Ticehurst, Car Park	52	Wadhurst	16 minutes	Service 254	Wadhurst	6 minutes
Udimore, Village Hall	8	Rye	15 minutes	Service 326	Rye	9 minutes
Wadhurst, Durgates	2	Wadhurst	6 minutes	No public bus due to lack of demand. Service 254 is a 5 minute walk and then a 6 minute journey to Wadhurst	Wadhurst	2 minutes
Wannock, Village Hall	7	Eastbourne	23 minutes	Service 125 or 143	Hampden Park	8 minutes
Westfield, Geary Place	21	Hastings	28 minutes	Service 2	Hollington	8 minutes
Wilmington, Ades Field	2	Eastbourne	30 minutes	Service 125	Polegate	5 minutes
Winchelsea Beach, opposite Windmill Way	7	Rye	11 minutes	Service 101	Rye	7 minutes
Winchelsea, Castle Street	6	Rye	9 minutes	Service 100	Rye	5 minutes
Windmill Hill, Hurst Lane	7	Hailsham	21 minutes	Service 98	Hailsham	11 minutes
Withyham, Dorset Arms	4	Forest Row	16 minutes	Service 291	Crowborough	10 minutes
Wivelsfield Green, Village Hall	15	Lewes	33 minutes	Service 166	Uckfield	19 minutes