

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Tool:

Title of proposal	Community Services & Library Needs Assessment
Name of division/service	Neighbourhood & Environmental Services
Name of lead officer completing this assessment	Lee Warner
Date EIA assessment commenced	1 st July 2023
Date EIA assessment completed (<i>prior to decision being taken as the EIA may still be reviewed following a decision to monitor any changes</i>)	
Decision maker	Cllr Vi Dempster – Assistant City Mayor
Date decision taken	No decision taken

EIA sign off on completion:	Signature	Date
Lead officer	Lee Warner	13/03/2025, signed at this stage
Equalities officer (has been consulted)	Sukhi Biring/Surinder Singh	14/03/2025, signed at this stage
Divisional director	Sean Atterbury	17/03/2025, signed at this stage

Please ensure the following:

- a) That the document is **understandable to a reader who has not read any other documents** and explains (on its own) how the Public Sector Equality Duty is met. This does not need to be lengthy but must be complete and based in evidence.
- b) That available support information and data is identified and where it can be found. Also be clear about highlighting gaps in existing data or evidence that you hold, and how you have sought to address these knowledge gaps.
- c) That the equality impacts are capable of aggregation with those of other EIAs to identify the cumulative impact of all service changes made by the council on different groups of people.
- d) That the equality impact assessment is started at an early stage in the decision-making process, so that it can be used to inform the consultation, engagement and the decision. It should not be a tick-box exercise. Equality impact assessment is an iterative process that should be revisited throughout the decision-making process. It can be used to assess several different options.
- e) Decision makers must be aware of their duty to pay 'due regard' to the Public Sector Equality Duty (see below) and 'due regard' must be paid before and at the time a decision is taken. Please see the Brown Principles on the equality intranet pages, for information on how to undertake a lawful decision-making process, from an equalities perspective. Please append the draft EIA and the final EIA to papers for decision makers (including leadership team meetings, lead member briefings, scrutiny meetings and executive meetings) and draw out the key points for their consideration. The Equalities Team provide equalities comments on reports.

1. Setting the context

Describe the proposal, the reasons it is being made, and the intended change or outcome. Will the needs of those who are currently using the service continue to be met?

In early 2023 Leicester City Council launched the Community Services & Library Needs Assessment (CSLNA) which is a transformational programme for Neighbourhood Services scoping in all 25 facilities. It will conduct an in-depth assessment of need across all communities and the whole of the city to assess present and future needs.

The CSLNA programme was launched because, we know, the cities demographics are changing, we know new communities are arriving in the city and that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed what people need from our services. The programme aims to ensure our communities have the right type of service offering for the future, based on robust evidence gathering.

Like many local authorities Leicester City Council are facing a challenging financial situation so it is vital that we ensure the service we provide meets the needs of our users. We will need to ensure resources are used efficiently whilst protecting a service which is highly valued and widely used across the city.

Leicester City Council manages 25 community facilities across the city including 9 multi service centres and the Central Library. Within these facilities the Council runs 16 libraries and 13 community centres, with many services co-located. At these sites people can access books and reading, use the internet and find information, attend a group, take part in an event and much more. Neighbourhood Services facilities are located in the heart of local communities.

The primary research for this programme has been conducted by Activist, an independent, sector specialist research and engagement agency. As part of the primary research Leicester City Council ran a public engagement from 3rd July 2023 to 24th September 2023 to identify which services people use now, what their priorities are for the future, and their thoughts on alternative models. Members of the public, stakeholders and staff members were asked for their views. A detailed questionnaire was available to complete online and on paper over a three month period from June – August 2023. A survey aimed at children and young people was also made available online in September 2023. In total 2851 responses were received. To gain further insight and depth 12 public focus groups were held in neighbourhood locations around the city. Interviews were held with key internal & external stakeholders and two staff workshops were undertaken. Leicester City Council's Neighbourhood Services management and project team has produced a secondary research report which summarises service data, benchmarking information and ward profiles to provide details of local communities and their needs. Separate reports for both the primary and secondary research findings are available and form the evidence basis for this EIA.

Proposals for service transformation have been developed to deliver services in areas and communities where need is great and within the reduced budgetary envelope available for the future. The Neighbourhood & Environmental Services division will see a significantly reduced budget over the next 3 financial years. The proposals aim to develop widely accessible multi-service hubs whilst reducing the overall number of facilities we operate and focusing service provision in areas of need whilst retaining good geographical coverage of the city.

The recommended model for Neighbourhood Services is to develop community based multi-service centres with a focus on services to support wellbeing. The multi-service centres are located in areas of need and in buildings which are fit for the future with good accessibility and surrounding transport networks to cover broad catchment areas. The Central Library service will provide city-wide coverage with added breadth and depth serving residents living in all areas. Under the proposals there will be a renewed focus on four nationally recognised "Universal Offers" and the "Children's Promise" developed by Libraries Connected, providing interventions, resources and activities around reading, digital and information, culture, creativity and health, and health and wellbeing. Online services including extensive e-libraries would continue to provide e-books, newspapers and magazines to library members from anywhere in the city, at any time. The Children's BookBus

would provide regular services in the most disadvantaged areas of the city and a volunteer supported Home Library Service would deliver books to housebound residents. Under the proposals community organisations would be supported to develop plans to take on the running of facilities no longer required by the service to deliver additional community benefits.

The following multi-service centres would be developed under the proposals, to provide neighbourhood services located in accessible areas of need across the city, supported by the city-wide in-depth provision at the Central Library:

- Leicester Central Library – 45 staffed hours per week
- Aylestone Library (located in Aylestone Leisure Centre) – 30 staffed hours per week & self-access hours during leisure centre opening times
- Beaumont Leys Library Hub - 40 staffed hours per week
- Belgrave Library Hub - 40 staffed hours per week & Install library self-access to increase overall opening hours
- The BRITE Centre Hub - 40 staffed hours per week & Install library self-access to increase overall opening hours
- Hamilton Library & Community Centre Hub - 30 staffed hours per week & Install library self-access to increase overall opening hours
- Highfields Library Hub - 40 staffed hours per week
- New Parks Centre Hub - 30 staffed hours per week & Install library self-access to increase overall opening hours
- Pork Pie Library & Community Centre Hub - 30 staffed hours per week & Install library self-access to increase overall opening hours
- St Barnabas Library Hub - 40 staffed hours per week & Install library self-access to increase overall opening hours
- St Matthews Library (relocated within the St Matthews Estate)
- Thurnby Lodge Community Centre - 30 staffed hours per week
- Westcotes Library - 30 staffed hours per week

The following facilities would be released and where appropriate opportunities provided for community organisations to take on the running of services:

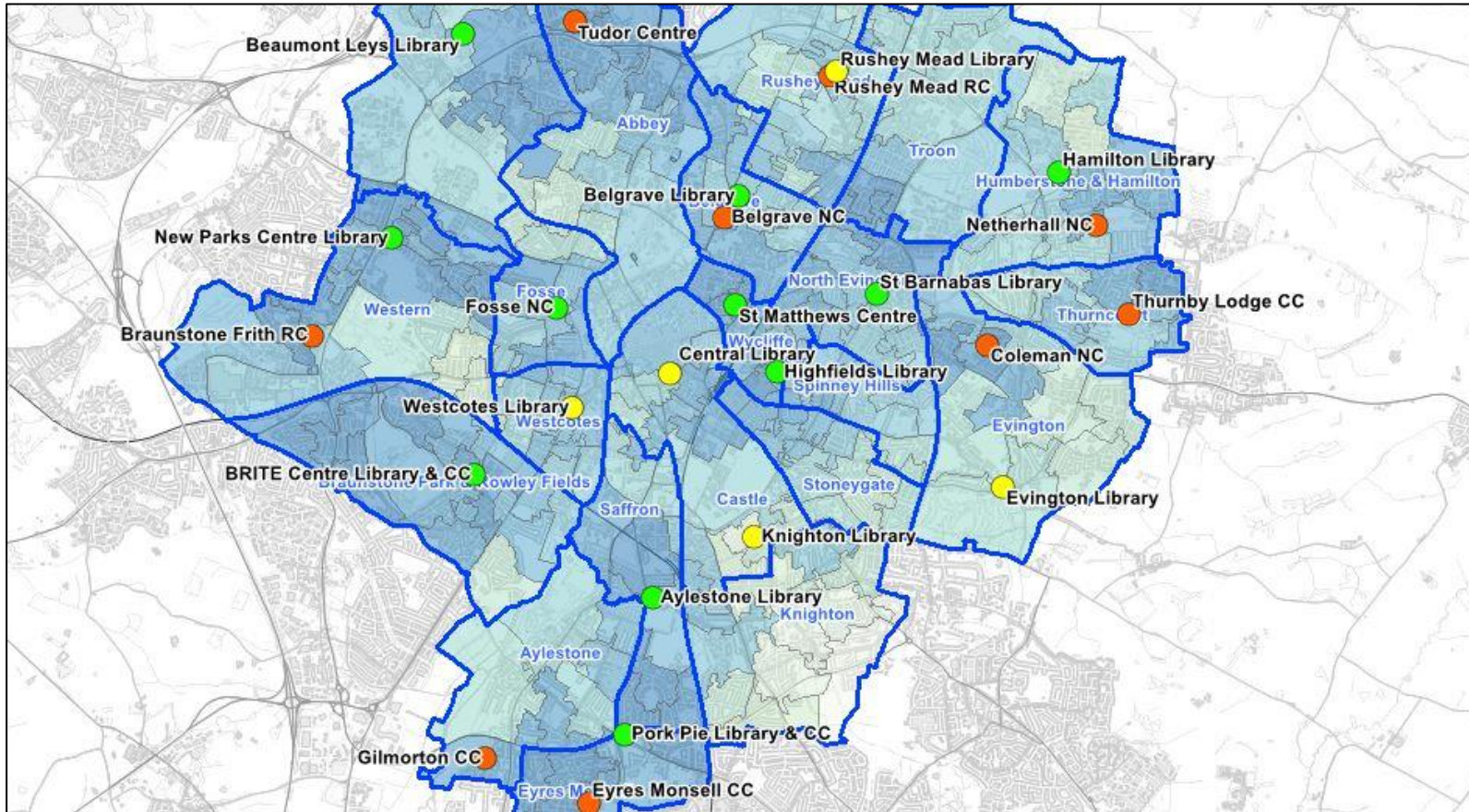
- Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre
- Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre
- Coleman Neighbourhood Centre
- Eyres Monsell Community Centre
- Evington Library
- Gilmorton Community Rooms

- Knighton Library
- Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre
- Rushey Mead Library
- Rushey Mead Recreation Centre
- Tudor Centre

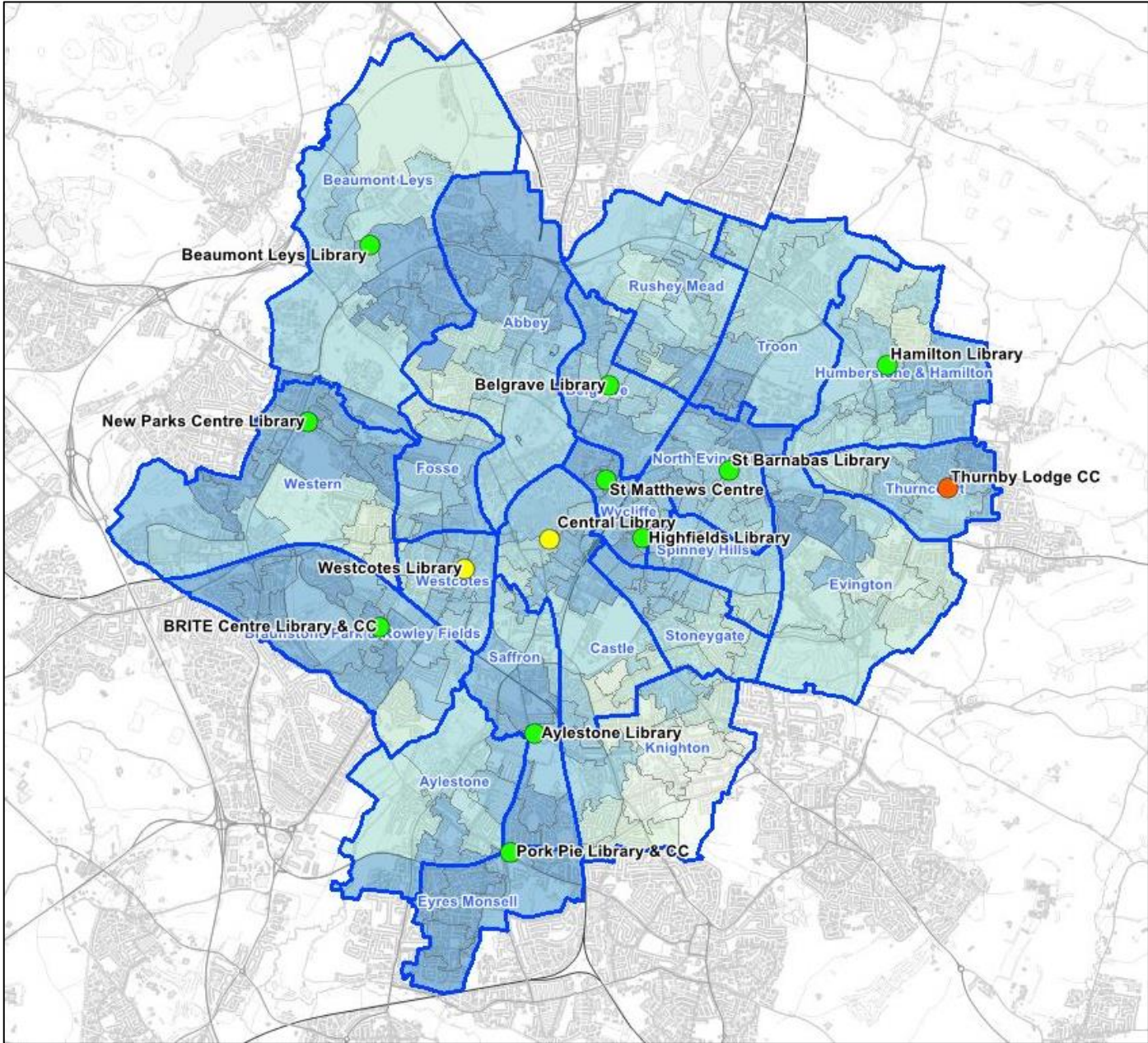
The St Matthews Centre would be closed and the library will be re-located within the estate.

Fosse Neighbourhood Centre would not be put forward for Community Asset Transfer and other disposal options will be explored.

Current Dispersed Neighbourhood Services Model



Proposed Multi-Service Centre Model



The proposals support a multi-service centre model with additional investment, transformed services and technical enhancements to deliver additional benefits as follows:

- Self-Access after core staffed hours at suitable sites to extend opening hours and availability.
- Investment of £1,000,000 to further develop retained buildings as wellbeing hubs acting as one stop shops for multi-services including libraries, community rooms and adult learning facilities
- Review of the areas visited by the new Children’s BookBus to focus on covering areas of greatest need.
- Provision of activity programmes providing activities and resources around around the Libraries Connected defined “universal offers”. The Needs Assessment work has identified a clear priority for providing activities to support reading, health and wellbeing, digital, information and signposting needs, and cultural and creative activities to bring people together.
- Continuing to invest in online services and resources including the e-libraries
- Closer working with partners including the council’s children’s centres and university libraries to provide additional access to study spaces and book stock for members of the public.
- Supporting community groups to take on the running of more services
- Developing volunteer opportunities to enhance the services offered and to provide benefits to participants
- Relaunching the small libraries at identified children’s centres to provide additional access to books for children and young families.
- Expanded Home Library Service linked to our volunteer offer to support housebound residents with door-to-door book deliveries wherever they live in the city

2. Equality implications/obligations

Which aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) are likely be relevant to the proposal? In this question, consider both the current service and the proposed changes.

a. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

- How does the proposal/service aim to remove barriers or disproportionate impacts for anyone with a particular protected characteristics compared with someone who does not share the same protected characteristics?
- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

Libraries and Community Centres provide welcoming, neutral spaces for the widest possible range of people to come together. The proposals include:

- Cultural and creative programmes to be delivered in multi-service centres with broad catchment areas, to celebrate the diversity of our local communities.
- Resources and support to overcome digital exclusion including lack of access to devices and internet service providers, and support to get online and access services for those who may be digitally excluded. Multi-service centres will review the provision of public access computers, study desk with Bring Your Own Device charging points and access to Wi-Fi, scanning and printing.
- Health and wellbeing activities including volunteering activities to bring people together and overcome loneliness and isolation
- A focus on children's reading programmes bringing children together from all communities and backgrounds
- Access to reading and information online through e-libraries and e-resources to provide access to residents 24/7 from any location.

The proposed model would reduce the number of library and community centre facilities we offer but would invest in the retained multi-service centres with a focus on wellbeing services. The retained buildings are fully accessible and are located on good bus routes in the centre of communities. The buildings would be accessible for the majority of the city with 15 minutes of bus travel (including walking time) and available to all with 30 minutes of bus travel (including walking time). 96% of residents would be within 1.25 miles of a multi-service centre and library.

The introduction of Self-Access after core staffed hours at six library sites would enable residents to access welcoming community facilities for longer and at more convenient times for some to meet, study and select books together.

b. Advance equality of opportunity between different groups

- Does the proposal/service advance equality of opportunity for people?
- Identify inequalities faced by those with specific protected characteristic(s).
- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

The proposals affect all residents and service users across the city.

Current usage of our libraries by ethnicity demonstrates a close correlation with the ethnic make-up of the city as a whole. This is also replicated at local library level, see appendix 5.

Using the indices of multiple deprivation the city has pockets of high deprivation (see appendix 1). The proposals aim to ensure the most deprived areas of the city have good access to facilities.

Age is a consideration for inequalities faced by two groups (older people and children). There is disproportionately high usage of libraries by children and young people under 16yrs. Children may be less able to travel to use a local library. Many of the children responding to the under 16yrs survey said they used an after-school homework club, indicating they are visiting the library on their way home from school. Homework Clubs will be developed under the proposal to respond to broader needs around health and wellbeing and especially recognising the role the clubs play in providing a neutral, safe and welcoming space outside of school and home and have a role to play in boosting mental health. However four homework clubs would no longer be available following the withdrawal from Fosse, Evington, St Matthews and Rushey Mead libraries.

The proposed reduction of opening hours across all libraries could impact children and young people who are significant users of libraries after school – in the late afternoon and at weekends. For this reason the proposed staffed opening hours include late afternoons and at least one evening at all libraries, and Saturday opening at all.

Under the proposals self-access systems would be introduced into 6 libraries to provide extended opening hours outside of regular staffed hours, from 8am to 8pm on weekdays. Customers aged 16 years and over are able to access the unstaffed library on a self-service basis during these times. Children and young people under 16 years would be able to use the library accompanied by an adult, however the service would not be available to unaccompanied children and young people under 16 years. Special consideration would be given to GCSE year children

who have not yet turned 16, but who would have the same need to use library study space as other young people in the same academic year who are 16. It is therefore proposed to introduce a system to enable all year 11 students to sign up to library self-access.

The Community Services and Library Needs Assessment found that: “A sizeable proportion of Leicester children are understood to grow up in poverty, with related impacts on school readiness and future life outcomes. Libraries and community centres, alongside other public services, can play a role in helping children, young people and their families with these early year challenges.” Under the proposals funding would be sought to retain the early years Book Start programme with a focus on children aged 0-5yrs living in the most disadvantaged areas of the city.

Children living in deprived areas are affected by child poverty. Under the proposal multi-service centres including library provision would be located in areas of need. A range of children’s reading programmes will continue to be developed to include outreach programmes delivered through primary and secondary schools. The children’s BookBus routes will be reviewed to focus on children in the most disadvantaged areas considering any changes in local service provision following consultation. Satellite libraries at local children’s centres will be expanded to reach more children and young families in these areas. Outreach programmes will be prioritised under the transformed service to provide opportunities for all children to engage with reading for pleasure. Schemes such as Our Best Book, Our Best Picture Book and the Reading Rampage would continue to be supported by the service and delivered to children at participating primary and secondary schools.

Older people were over-represented in our primary research Needs Assessment survey with 27% of all respondents over the age of 65yrs. This was reflected in comments from older people living in disadvantaged areas who said they visit community run groups at local facilities to improve physical health and overcome social isolation. Under the proposal the Council would work with groups meeting to socialise at Community Centres to explore alternative arrangements where possible allowing the groups to continue to meet, including signposting to non-council run community facilities. A programme would be set up to support community organisations to take on the running of community facilities where appropriate to develop wider community benefits.

Some Community Centres and Libraries have disproportionately high use by people from specific ethnic backgrounds. For example Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre has very high use by people describing themselves as Asian/British Asian many of whom are Gujarati speakers and over 65yrs. The proposals are mindful of a high number of alternative community spaces in the local area, including community centres and temples with community halls which are run by the other organisations. Community organisations would be supported to develop a business case to take on the running of the BNC.

c. Foster good relations between different groups

- Does the service contribute to good relations or to broader community cohesion objectives?
- How does it achieve this aim?
- Is this a relevant consideration? What issues could arise?

The multi service centres provide an opportunity for local residents to come into contact with and potentially engage with other residents from different backgrounds and with different protected characteristics to themselves. This opportunity to engage with diverse members of the local community raises awareness of distinct groups who share similar interests and concerns to them and helps to foster good relations between them and enhance community cohesion. Under the proposals all retained multi service centres would offer shared community space and the majority with community rooms for hire at a significant concessionary rate for community groups.

The proposals provide support for community groups to take on the running of some services to provide additional community benefit. There is evidence from our 11 existing Community Asset Transfer buildings to show that usage of local facilities can be increased and with a wider range of local organisations accessing services due to improved community networks and a greater sense of ownership.

In the event of a community asset transfer bids would be assessed to ensure community impact criteria are met with provision made to accommodate existing and new groups through the lease.

Under the proposals the service will prioritise a “Culture and Creativity” offer to provide events and activities involving arts and crafts and cultural celebrations to provide more opportunities for people to come together. This will be supported through work with a wide range of partners to provide added value activities in shared community spaces, and through an expanded volunteering network to provide opportunities for people from different backgrounds to work together on community and library programmes.

The service will continue to provide a Ward and Community Engagement Team, to support ward councillors in the running of a ward funding scheme in all 21 city wards, providing small grants to fund community benefit projects led by local groups and residents. Ward officers promote opportunities for cross community projects at the multi-service centres and at other local venues.

3. Who is affected?

Outline who could be affected, and how they could be affected by the proposal/service change. Include people who currently use the service and those who could benefit from, but do not currently access the service. Where possible include data to support this.

The population of the city is diverse and differs across the city – particularly in regard to ethnicity (along with use of English as their main language), religion or belief, and to a lesser degree, age (some differences in % of over 65 year olds). The chart below presents an overview profile of relevant statistics for the 2021 census:

Total Population	368,581	%
Age		
Age 0-14	72,729	19.7%
Age 15-64	252,347	68.5%
Age 65+	43,505	11.8%
Place of birth		
Born in UK	217,079	58.9%
Born in Middle East and Asia	79,373	21.5%
Born in Europe	34,828	9.4%
Born in Africa	33,549	9.1%
Born in The Americas and the Caribbean	3,244	0.9%
Born in Antarctica and Oceania	497	0.1%
Other	1	0.0%
English Language		
Main language English	248,771	67.5%
Main language is not English: Can speak English very well	36,216	9.8%

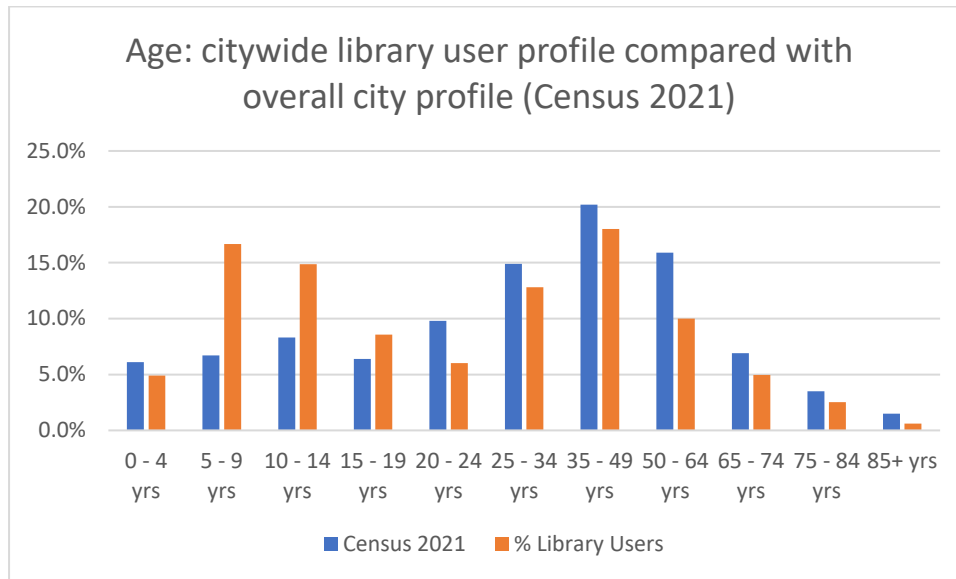
Main language is not English: Can speak English well	38,545	10.5%
Main language is not English: Cannot speak English well	24,541	6.7%
Main language is not English: Cannot speak English	7,499	2.0%
Ethnicity		
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	159,977	43.4%
White	150,657	40.9%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	28,766	7.8%
Other Ethnic Group	15,272	4.1%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	13,899	3.8%
Religion		
Christian	91,161	24.7%
Muslim	86,443	23.5%
No Religion	84,607	23.0%
Hindu	65,821	17.9%

Religion not stated	20,509	5.6%
Sikh	16,451	4.5%
Other religion	2,072	0.6%
Buddhist	1,181	0.3%
Jewish	326	0.1%

Our library membership records there are currently around 60,000 active users of the library service, although this does not include customers without a library card, or who have not engaged with our systems recently but may have attended events and activities.

Our records show there is disproportionately high use of the service by children and young people aged 0 – 19yrs, and particularly between the ages of 5 – 16yrs, compared to the Census data for the city as a whole.

Age category	Leicester (Census 2021)	Active Library Users
0 - 4 yrs	6.1%	4.9%
5 - 9 yrs	6.7%	16.7%
10 - 14 yrs	8.3%	14.9%
15 - 19 yrs	6.4%	8.6%
20 - 24 yrs	9.8%	6.0%
25 - 34 yrs	14.9%	12.8%
35 - 49 yrs	20.2%	18.0%
50 - 64 yrs	15.9%	10.0%
65 - 74 yrs	6.9%	5.0%
75 - 84 yrs	3.5%	2.5%
85+ yrs	1.5%	0.6%



Our records show that there are disproportionately more female library users than male users:

Gender	% of library users
Not stated	0.2%
Female	54.6%
Male	45.1%
Transgender	0.1%

Library users who responded to the Needs Assessment questionnaire identified the following services as most important to them:

Option	Total	Percent
Books and reading materials	1284	54.87%
Computers, Wi-Fi, and IT support	549	23.46%
A social space to meet people	524	22.39%

Option	Total	Percent
Information and advice, including community information	485	20.73%
Children's and family activities such as Toddler Time	445	19.02%
A quiet study space	332	14.19%
Health and wellbeing sessions and activities	302	12.91%
Cultural activities and events	299	12.78%

The primary research survey showed that users of our community centres are disproportionately older than the city population.

The primary research indicated that, overall fewer people visit community centres than libraries. However, the people who do visit them are from a wide range of backgrounds.

Those who responded to the survey said the most important reasons for using community centres are:

Option	Total	Percent
To attend a community group or activity	557	53.97%
Space to meet people	494	47.87%
Cultural events and activities	301	29.17%
A safe space which is welcoming to all	218	21.12%
Exercise or health related activities	207	20.06%

Option	Total	Percent
Community meetings such as ward meetings	174	16.86%
Leicester Adult Learning classes	167	16.18%
Space to hire for a community group	165	15.99%

Residents, partners, stakeholders and community groups could be affected by the proposal in the following ways:

- Groups and individuals meeting and participating in community activities at Community Centres. Some users may need to relocate to another building if the building is proposed for alternative use – travel distance may be an issue. Some users may need to use buildings which are run by non-Council organisations with a change to terms and conditions of use, including higher charges for hire of community space.
- People using local libraries which are proposed for withdrawal. Those most affected may include older people who may be less mobile, and children and young people under 16 years who are disproportionately higher users of libraries. These users may need to make more use of online services, and to visit alternative nearby libraries.
- People using libraries and community centres could be affected by the proposed reduction in opening hours. Self access would remain available for community room hire where this is currently in place.
- Children and young people under the age of 16yrs may be affected by the introduction of self-access systems in libraries. Children would be able to use self-access if accompanied by an adult. A special arrangement would be in place for year 11 (GCSE) students who have not yet turned 16yrs, and who may need to use library self-access for study.
- Local residents who do not currently use the above services but who may wish to so in the future

4. Information used to inform the equality impact assessment

- What **data, research, or trend analysis** have you used?
- Describe how you have your information and what it tells you
- Are there any gaps or limitations in the information you currently hold, and how you have sought to address this? E.g. proxy data, national trends, equality monitoring etc.

A Community Services and Library Needs Assessment was undertaken to inform the EIA. The Needs Assessment was undertaken by an independent consultant, Activist, between July – September 2023 with a full findings report completed in January 2024. The primary research consisted of public, stakeholder and staff engagement including:

- Engagement questionnaire available online and on paper for 12 weeks. The questionnaire was available in 5 community languages and in additional languages upon request.
- Focus groups held in 12 locations across the city and focusing on 5 themes. This included a young persons' focus group.
- Stakeholder interviews with internal and external stakeholders.
- A young persons survey undertaken online and across the city for one month.
- Two Neighbourhood Services staff workshops.

A Secondary research report was produced to gather information about service usage, city and ward profiles, and benchmarking data with near neighbour local authorities.

- Demographic information for the area taken from the most recent Census data (2021) was used to understand the profile of the city's population.
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation map produced by the Public Health Division of Leicester City Council was used to identify levels of deprivation at ward and super output area level.
- Service usage data was used to ascertain the levels of use for each service. The data includes:
 - Total use (annual visits) for each building
 - Full timetable of activities delivered at each building and in each room, and any protected characteristics relating to user groups
 - Numbers attending each type of activity
 - Service level data relating to ethnic background, disability, age and gender.
- Bus routes, walking distances and catchment area mapping to assess the accessibility of sites.
- Analysis of age, gender, BME group and disability information supplied by respondents to the public engagement exercise
- Visitors survey – looking at how many customers are in the building during certain times

- Post code survey at Community centres
- PC Usage and Stock Issues at libraries

5. Consultation

Have you undertaken consultation about the proposal with people who use the service or people affected, people who may potentially use the service and other stakeholders? What did they say about:

- What is important to them regarding the current service?
- How does (or could) the service meet their needs? How will they be affected by the proposal? What potential impacts did they identify because of their protected characteristic(s)?
- Did they identify any potential barriers they may face in accessing services/other opportunities that meet their needs?

An extensive public engagement exercise has been undertaken across the city. An online and paper survey exercise was made available from 3rd July 2023 to 24th September 2023 for which we received 2851 responses to the survey (from a main and young people's survey)). We have also undertaken:

- 12 citywide public focus groups (including a young people's group)
- Key internal & external stakeholder interviews
- Staff workshops

The key findings of the main engagement exercise were as follows:

- Over half of respondents (56.75%) cited cost of living as their greatest concern in life
- Over half of respondents (52.82%) want to be more physically active
- 41.84% of respondents visit a library at least weekly
- With regard to library services, over half of respondents (54.87%) cited books and reading materials as the most important thing on offer. Followed by Computers, Wi-Fi and IT support (23.46%) then a social space to meet people (22.39%)
- 10.34% of respondents use a public computer at least weekly, 6.62% of respondents use a printer and 3.97% use a scanner

- Better promotion of what is on offer is the main thing which would encourage people to visit a local library more often
- 54.32% of respondents have either never or rarely visited a community centre in the last 5 years
- With regard to Community Centres 44.91% of respondents cited either a space to meet people or to attend a community group/activity as the most important things on offer
- A wider range of activities and events is the main thing which would encourage people to visit a community centre more often

The key findings of the young people’s engagement exercise were as follows:

- Majority of responders between 11-16 years old
- 92.37% spoke English at home and 60.27% spoke Gujarati
- Watching videos, TV or films, spending time with family and reading books were the most common ways of how free time is spent
- 83.76% were happy with where they live
- 29.55% would like more parks and play areas
- 34.25% (By September) had visited a local library since the end of the summer holidays
- Only 6.07% had never been to a local library
- 74.17% said their local library is a friendly place and 70.84% said there are lots of books to choose from
- 81.02% borrowed books to take home from their local library and 66.14% stayed to read books at the library
- 36.99% said they would go to the library more if it had better books and 31.31% said they would go more if it was closer to home or school

Respondents to the survey were asked to consider approaches taken by other local authorities for transforming libraries and community centres. The responses were as follows

Many councils are changing how they operate community centres and library services in order to better meet the needs of residents. Please tick up to three ideas that you think we could look at."

Option	Total	Percent
--------	-------	---------

Have more multi-service centres to bring community centres, libraries and local services together	1014	58.78%
Involving community organisations more in running services	621	36.00%
Reviewing opening hours to match peak demand	596	34.55%
Making more use of customer self-service in public libraries	375	21.74%
Providing more services online	294	17.04%
Making more use of volunteers	377	21.86%
None of the above	211	12.23%
Other	91	5.28%

A full primary research report containing the findings of the engagement exercises is available.

This initial public engagement exercise and primary and secondary research reports have informed the development of proposals. A full public consultation exercise will be undertaken on proposals and options and will be used to update this Equality Impact Assessment.

6. Potential Equality Impact

Based on your understanding of the service area, any specific evidence you may have on people who use the service and those who could potentially use the service and the findings of any consultation you have undertaken, use the table below to explain which individuals or community groups are likely to be affected by the proposal because of their protected characteristic(s). Describe what the impact is likely to be, how significant that impact is for individual or group well-being, and what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove negative impacts. This could include indirect impacts, as well as direct impacts.

Looking at potential impacts from a different perspective, this section also asks you to consider whether any other particular groups, especially vulnerable groups, are likely to be affected by the proposal. List the relevant groups that may be affected, along with the

impact, potential risks and mitigating actions that would reduce or remove any negative impacts. These groups do not have to be defined by their protected characteristic(s).

Protected characteristics

Impact of proposal:

Describe the impact of the proposal on people because of their protected characteristic and how they may be affected. Why is this protected characteristic relevant to the proposal? How does the protected characteristic determine/shape the potential impact of the proposal? This may also include **positive impacts** which support the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Risk of disproportionate negative impact:

How likely is it that people with this protected characteristic will be disproportionately negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected?

Mitigating actions:

For disproportionate negative impacts on protected characteristic/s, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove the impact? You may also wish to include actions which support the positive aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations. All actions identified here should also be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA.

a) Age

Indicate which age group/s is/ are most affected, either specify general age group (children, young people, working aged people or older people) or specific age bands.

What is the impact of the proposal on age?

A building by building breakdown of potential equality impact is attached as appendix 2. This section will focus on cross cutting service impacts.

Older people and children may be impacted by the distance they need to travel to alternative library and community facilities, the nearest sites have been listed in appendix 2. Younger people could also be impacted by withdrawal from sites with ball courts (Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre, Eyres Monsell Community centre, Coleman Neighbourhood Centre, Thurnby Lodge Community Centre)

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on age?

Overall the risk is assessed as low due to a range of mitigations which will be put in place under the proposals. Key areas for consideration are:

Older People: The proposals may lead to issues of social isolation for people unable or unwilling to travel to access services elsewhere. A higher proportion of community centre users in particular are older people.

Young children: Young children aged 0 - 4 years may be impacted as families with young children have to travel to different sites to access services. This may result in some young children having reducing engagement with books and reading and in particular with book sharing with their parents and carers. Some mothers and toddlers may be unable to attend a Toddler Time (under 5's) session at a local library.

Some community centres are currently hired by Pre-schools. These include Coleman Neighbourhood Centre, St Matthews Centre, Tudor Centre, Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre, Netherhall Community Centre and Tudor Centre. These pre-schools may need to relocate impacting local families.

Children: Children may be unable to visit a local library so frequently and/or may be unable to attend a homework club. This may have an impact on children's learning, especially with regard to reading for pleasure which is associated with improved life chances, and for studying and socialising. Children aged 5 – 16 years are disproportionately high users of community libraries in the city.

Young People: Under the proposals self-access systems would be introduced into 6 libraries to provide extended opening hours outside of regular staffed hours, from 8am to 8pm on weekdays. Customers aged 16 years and over are able to access the unstaffed library on a self-service basis during these times. Children and young people under 16 years would be able to use the library accompanied by an adult, however the service would not be available to unaccompanied children and young people under 16 years.

What are the mitigating actions?

A reduction in facilities will enable reallocation of the budget to improve the service at better used and better located sites and make the Neighbourhood Services offer more sustainable in the long term for all age groups in Leicester.

Online services will be expanded to provide access to e-books, e-audiobooks, magazines and newspapers in digital format, at any time and from anywhere.

Council officers will collaborate with all affected community groups to find alternative space for community activities where needed

The bookbus offer will be reviewed to ensure children living in areas of high disadvantage continue to receive a library service.

Older People: We will work existing community groups to support their continued operation in the future. A programme will be out in place to support community organisations to take on the running of community centres where suitable. Existing community groups and room hire charges will be protected under the terms of any asset transfers. Alternative community venues have been mapped so that community groups can be signposted to these providers should their centre become unavailable.

Young children: We will signpost parents to alternative under 5's groups in nearby libraries, or to other provision in the local area. The children's BookBus will visit local nurseries and pre-school settings to deliver book sharing and storytelling sessions. We will work with partners including LCC Early Years to provide alternative book collections for young children in some Children, Young People and Family Centres.

Children: Multi-service centres including library provision will be located in areas of greatest need. A range of children's reading programmes will continue to be developed to include outreach programmes delivered through primary and secondary schools. The children's BookBus routes will be reviewed to focus on children in the most disadvantaged areas considering any changes in local service provision. Satellite libraries at local children's centres will be expanded to reach more children and young families in these areas. Outreach programmes will be prioritised under the transformed service to provide opportunities for all children to engage with reading for pleasure. Schemes such as Our

Best Book, Our Best Picture Book and the Reading Rampage will continue to be delivered to children at participating primary and secondary schools.

Young People: Regarding the age limit on library self-access - special consideration would be given to GCSE year children who have not yet turned 16, but who would have the same need to use library study space as other young people in the same academic year who are 16. It is therefore proposed to introduce a system to enable all year 11 students to sign up to library self-access

b) Disability

A person has a disability if she or he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to conduct normal day-to-day activities. If specific impairments are affected by the proposal, specify which these are. Our standard categories are on our equality monitoring form – physical impairment, sensory impairment, mental health condition, learning disability, long standing illness, or health condition.

What is the impact of the proposal on disability?

A building by building breakdown of potential equality impact is attached as appendix 2. This section will focus on cross cutting service impacts.

Some disabled people may be impacted by the distance they need to travel to alternative provision because of mobility issues. Access to buildings and building features will also need to be considered and other barriers that prevent disabled people accessing services

Some special interest disability groups meet regularly at community centres and libraries and may be affected by withdrawal of services from some buildings.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on disability?

Closure of Neighbourhood Services buildings or relocation of services could have a disproportionate negative impact on users with a disability, especially those who take part in regular activities at a specific site near their home.

What are the mitigating actions?

All retained Multi-Service Centres are fully accessible for a wide range of disabilities including wheelchair users. IT users are able to use accessibility tools which can be demonstrated by staff. Services aim to ensure inclusive access to all protected characteristics and staff will continue to receive training to ensure awareness of the widest range of needs and the tools available to support these.

We support community organisations to take on the running of centres where appropriate under the Council's Community Asset Transfer policy. Where this is possible, agreements would be put in place to ensure access to community group users.

Investment in the retained centres will include any additional accessibility requirements above and beyond the current full compliance of the centres with reference to the wider catchment and incoming communities

We will work with any affected community groups to signpost and support them to relocate to appropriate alternative settings where necessary. Alternative community room hire providers have been mapped for all facilities.

We will consult on the impact of the proposals on disability and update this EIA with regard to the final proposals.

c) Gender reassignment

Indicate whether the proposal has potential impact on trans men or trans women, and if so, which group is affected. a trans person is someone who proposes to, starts, or has completed a process to change his or her gender. A person does not need to be under medical supervision to be protected.

What is the impact of the proposal on gender reassignment?

A building by building breakdown of potential equality impact is attached as appendix 2. This section will focus on cross cutting service impacts.

At this stage none known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on gender reassignment?

Currently there is no evidence to support that this protected characteristic is likely to be negatively impacted.

What are the mitigating actions?

Services aim to ensure inclusive access to all protected characteristics and staff will be trained to be aware of not stereotyping or discriminating against anyone based on their protected characteristics

d) Marriage and civil partnership

Please note that under the Public Sector Equality Duty this protected characteristic applies to the first general duty of the Act, eliminating unlawful discrimination, only. The focus within this is eliminating discrimination against people that are married or in a civil partnership with regard specifically to employment.

What is the impact of the proposal on marriage and civil partnership?

A building by building breakdown of potential equality impact is attached as appendix 2. This section will focus on cross cutting service impacts.

At this stage none known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on marriage and civil partnership?

Currently there is no evidence to support that this protected characteristic is likely to be negatively impacted.

What are the mitigating actions?

Services aim to ensure inclusive access to all protected characteristics and staff will be trained to be aware of not stereotyping or discriminating against anyone based on their protected characteristics

e) Pregnancy and maternity

Does the proposal treat someone unfairly because they are pregnant, breastfeeding or because they have recently given birth.

What is the impact of the proposal on pregnancy and maternity?

There is no known impact on pregnancy.

There may be an impact on maternity with regard to the availability of local library under 5's groups where libraries are proposed for closure.

There may be an impact on maternity with regard to the availability of local pre-school settings where these are hosted in community centres which are proposed for withdrawal.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on pregnancy and maternity?

The risk is considered low due to the availability of alternative providers and services.

What are the mitigating actions?

The retained facilities have adequate access for pushchairs and prams and there are baby changing facilities available.

We will signpost parents to alternative under 5's groups in nearby libraries, or to other provision in the local area. The children's BookBus will visit local nurseries and pre-school settings to deliver book sharing and storytelling sessions. We will work with partners including LCC Early Years to provide alternative book collections for young children in some Children, Young People and Family Centres.

f) Race

Race refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins. A racial group can be made up of two or more distinct racial groups, for example Black Britons, British Asians, British Sikhs, British Jews, Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers.

What is the impact of the proposal on race?

A building by building breakdown of potential equality impact is attached as appendix 2. This section will focus on cross cutting service impacts.

By offering buildings to be run by community groups this will encourage the mixing of people of different race and enhance community cohesion.

Customers whose first language is not English may have difficulty understanding new online information

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on race?

Some facilities have a disproportionately higher use by individuals and by communities from specific backgrounds.

For people unable to speak English they may have an issue accessing the enhanced online offer.

What are the mitigating actions?

All Neighbourhood Services facilities, in particular the multi-service centres retained under the proposals, are welcoming and accessible to people from all backgrounds and communities.

We will signpost and support community groups who may be impacted by the withdrawal from specific centres to access alternative spaces, either in convenient LCC multi-service centres, or in spaces run by other providers. We have mapped alternative community spaces around each facility to support this process.

We also work with existing and local community organisations to develop capacity for the community organisations to take on the running of local facilities which are no longer required by the Council, with a focus on retention of local groups.

Services will ensure access to translators is accessible where possible.

Services aim to ensure inclusive access to all protected characteristics and staff will be trained to be aware of not stereotyping or discriminating against anyone based on their protected characteristics.

g) Religion or belief

Religion refers to any religion, including a lack of religion. Belief refers to any religious or philosophical belief and includes a lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition. This must be a belief and not just an opinion or viewpoint based on the present state of information available and;

- be about a weighty and substantial aspect of human life and behaviour
- attain a certain level of cogency, seriousness, cohesion, and importance, and
- be worthy of respect in a democratic society, not incompatible with human dignity and not in conflict with fundamental rights of others. For example, Holocaust denial, or the belief in racial superiority are not protected.

Are your services sensitive to different religious requirements e.g., times a customer may want to access a service, religious days and festivals and dietary requirements

What is the impact of the proposal on religion or belief?

A building by building breakdown of potential equality impact is attached as appendix 2. This section will focus on cross cutting service impacts.

By offering buildings to be run by community groups this will encourage the mixing of people of different religion or belief and enhance community cohesion.

Faith based groups who use community spaces in any of the community centres which will cease to be operated by the council may be displaced.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on religion or belief?

Religious groups may be displaced from their current meeting spaces in community centres.

What are the mitigating actions?

The risk of negative impact on religion or belief is considered low, as the proposals only impact on the availability of meeting space in some locations. We will signpost and support community groups who may be impacted by the withdrawal from specific centres to access alternative

spaces, either in convenient LCC multi-service centres, or in spaces run by other providers. We have mapped alternative community spaces around each facility to support this process.

We also work with existing and local community organisations to develop capacity for the community organisations to take on the running of local facilities which are no longer required by the Council, with a focus on retention of local groups.

h) Sex

Indicate whether this has potential impact on either males or females.

What is the impact of the proposal on sex?

A building by building breakdown of potential equality impact is attached as appendix 2. This section will focus on cross cutting service impacts.

Popular light exercise classes at some community centres are gender specific. There is high demand on space from both groups.

Overall there is higher use of libraries by females (55%) than by males (45%). This is generally the case for library activity groups (crafting, knit and natter etc) and also for book borrowing for those aged over 16 years. However use of public access computers is higher for males than for females.

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on sex?

Currently there is no evidence to support that this protected characteristic is likely to be negatively impacted.

What are the mitigating actions?

N/A

i) Sexual orientation

Indicate if there is a potential impact on people based on their sexual orientation. The Act protects heterosexual, gay, lesbian or bisexual people.

What is the impact of the proposal on sexual orientation?

A building by building breakdown of potential equality impact is attached as appendix 2. This section will focus on cross cutting service impacts.

At this stage none known

What is the risk of disproportionate negative impact on sexual orientation?

Currently there is no evidence to support that this protected characteristic is likely to be negatively impacted.

What are the mitigating actions?

Services aim to ensure inclusive access to all protected characteristics and staff will be trained to be aware of not stereotyping or discriminating against anyone based on their protected characteristics.

7. Summary of protected characteristics

a. Summarise why the protected characteristics you have commented on, are relevant to the proposal?

Age is important due to the disproportionately high number of people under 16 years who use the library service. Any withdrawal from local libraries should consider the impact on children's access to reading for pleasure, the role of books and reading in improving life chances and the positive impact of library homework clubs and social spaces on children's mental health. A range of mitigations are proposed to reduce any negative impact from the proposals on children, including a review of the Book Bus routes and stops and closer working with Children, Young People and Family Centres.

Disability is important when considering access and travel to community centres and libraries for groups and individuals who identify one or more disabilities. We have mapped public transport routes and times, and our research shows that other sites are available to most of the city via bus or walking. However further consultation is required to understand the impact of proposals on specific groups.

Investment in retained multi-service centres will need to focus on flexible and accessible design for all groups. Understanding special requirements to accommodate the wider range of physical and mental disabilities will be crucial. The forthcoming consultation will be used to identify any further physical or social barriers for those who identify as having a disability.

Race, Religion or belief and sex are important due to the potential impact of proposals on community groups hiring space, for example for prayer groups or gender specific exercise groups. Mitigation will include signposting to other council or external providers and also the possibility of transfer of facilities to the local community. The consultation will help to understand specific issues which may arise from the proposals.

b. Summarise why the protected characteristics you have not commented on, are not relevant to the proposal?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

8. Armed Forces Covenant Duty

The Covenant Duty is a legal obligation on certain public bodies to 'have due regard' to the principles of the Covenant and requires decisions about the development and delivery of certain services to be made with conscious consideration of the needs of the Armed Forces community.

When Leicester City Council exercises a relevant function, within the fields of healthcare, education, and housing services it must have due regard to the aims set out below:

a. The unique obligations of, and sacrifices made by, the Armed Forces

These include danger; geographical mobility; separation; Service law and rights; unfamiliarity with civilian life; hours of work; and stress.

b. The principle that it is desirable to remove disadvantages arising for Service people from membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces

A disadvantage is when the level of access a member of the Armed Forces Community has to goods and services, or the support they receive, is comparatively lower than that of someone in a similar position who is not a member of the Armed Forces Community, and this difference arises from one (or more) of the unique obligations and sacrifices of Service life.

c. The principle that special provision for Service people may be justified by the effects on such people of membership, or former membership, of the Armed Forces

Special provision is the taking of actions that go beyond the support provided to reduce or remove disadvantage. Special provision may be justified by the effects of the unique obligations and sacrifices of Service life, especially for those that have sacrificed the most, such as the bereaved and the injured (whether that injury is physical or mental).

Does the service/issue under consideration fall within the scope of a function covered by the Duty (healthcare, education, housing)? Which aims of the Duty are likely be relevant to the proposal? In this question, consider both the current service and the proposed changes. Are members of the Armed Forces specifically disadvantaged or further disadvantaged by the proposal/service? Identify any mitigations including where appropriate possible special provision.

Some ex forces members may be affected by travel issues if a facility is no longer operated by LCC. Good bus routes across the city do allow for access to other local sites. In addition enhanced online services are available to users.

Cadets meeting and ex-military groups meeting at centres.

9. Other groups

Other groups

Impact of proposal:

Describe the likely impact of the proposal on children in poverty or any other people who we may consider to be vulnerable, for example people who misuse substances, care leavers, people living in poverty, care experienced young people, carers, those who are digitally excluded. List any vulnerable groups likely to be affected. Will their needs continue to be met? What issues will affect their take up of services/other opportunities that meet their needs/address inequalities they face?

Risk of disproportionate negative impact:

How likely is it that this group of people will be negatively affected? How great will that impact be on their well-being? What will determine who will be negatively affected?

Mitigating actions:

For negative impacts, what mitigating actions can be taken to reduce or remove this impact for this vulnerable group of people? These should be included in the action plan at the end of this EIA. You may also wish to use this section to identify opportunities for positive impacts.

a. Care Experienced People

This is someone who was looked after by children's services for a period of 13 weeks after the age of 14', but without any limit on age, recognising older people may still be impacted from care experience into later life.

What is the impact of the proposal on Care Experienced People?

Care experienced people are able to access books and reading programmes, homework help, computers, wi-fi and printing in a safe and warm space with trusted staff on hand. Our community centres host a number of groups who run classes/sessions aimed at targeting social isolation and digital exclusion e.g. homework help and DWP job shop sessions.

What is the risk of negative impact on Care Experienced People?

Careful consideration has been given to the proposals with regard to care experienced people. Whilst there is potential for this group to be negatively impacted through loss of informal social networks, access to safe spaces and IT resources, the proposals retain provision in areas of need and propose effective mitigations across the city.

What are the mitigating actions?

Services will continue to be delivered in areas of need across the city. The centres proposed to remain are easily accessible with wider catchment areas, 96% of residents are less than 1.25 miles from a centre. Homework help, study support and job shop sessions will be retained. Any groups displaced from a building will be assisted to find an alternate venue.

b. Children in poverty

What is the impact of the proposal on children in poverty?

A disproportionately high number of children use library services. Children are able to access books and reading programmes, homework help, computers, wi-fi and printing in a safe and warm space with trusted adults on hand. Usage of libraries by children in areas of high diversity and high-density housing including the Belgrave, Highfields and Uppingham Road areas of the city. Children's activities are well attended in the outer estates, including Saffron, New Parks and Braunstone.

What is the risk of negative impact on children in poverty?

Careful consideration has been given to the proposals with regard to children in poverty. Whilst there is potential for this group to be negatively impacted through loss of informal education opportunities and access to safe spaces, creative activities and IT resources, the proposals retain library provision in areas of high child poverty and propose effective mitigations across the city.

What are the mitigating actions?

Libraries will continue to be delivered in areas of need across the city. Centres proposed to remain are easily accessible with wider catchment areas. The Children's BookBus routes will be reviewed to ensure coverage of areas of greatest need where child poverty is highest. Satellite book collections will be expanded in some children, young people and family centres to provide additional access to books and reading for

children. Outreach reading programmes will continue to be provided to local children through schemes run in partnership with primary and secondary schools.

c. Other (describe)

What is the impact of the proposal on any other groups?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

What is the risk of negative impact on any other groups?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

What are the mitigating actions?

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

10. Other sources of potential negative impacts

Are there any other potential negative impacts external to the service that could further disadvantage service users over the next three years that should be considered? For example, these could include:

- other proposed changes to council services that would affect the same group of service users;
- Government policies or proposed changes to current provision by public agencies (such as new benefit arrangements) that would negatively affect residents;
- external economic impacts such as an economic downturn.

Neighbourhood Services is working closely with other Council Services to understand and effectively coordinate changes. Service we are working with include:

- Sports Services
- Early Years / Children, Young People and Family Centres

- Early Years / Youth Services
- Early Years / Family Hubs
- Customer Service Centre

11. Human rights implications

Are there any human rights implications which need to be considered and addressed (please see the list at the end of the template), if so, please outline the implications and how they will be addressed below:

None identified

12. Monitoring impact

You will need to ensure that monitoring systems are established to check for impact on the protected characteristics and human rights after the decision has been implemented. Describe the systems which are set up to:

- monitor impact (positive and negative, intended and unintended) for different groups
- monitor barriers for different groups
- enable open feedback and suggestions from different communities
- ensure that the EIA action plan (below) is delivered.

If you want to undertake equality monitoring, please refer to our [equality monitoring guidance and templates](#)

1. Primary research public engagement exercise (July - September 2023)
2. Consultation exercise planned for autumn/winter 2024
3. Annual Neighbourhood Services user survey
4. Ward community meetings
5. Monitoring of active library users and recorded characteristics (where provided)
 - Monthly reporting

13. EIA action plan

Please list all the equality objectives, actions and targets that result from this assessment (continue on separate sheets as necessary). These now need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Equality Outcome	Action	Officer Responsible	Completion date
Ensure residents from all backgrounds, communities and demographics continue to have access to neighbourhood services that are ran by the council or community organisations.	Undertake 12 week consultation on draft proposals to assess the impact of proposals and inform final recommendations	Lee Warner	29/06/2025

Equality Outcome	Action	Officer Responsible	Completion date

Human rights articles:

Part 1: The convention rights and freedoms

Article 2: Right to Life

Article 3: Right not to be tortured or treated in an inhuman or degrading way

Article 4: Right not to be subjected to slavery/forced labour

Article 5: Right to liberty and security

Article 6: Right to a fair trial

Article 7: No punishment without law

Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life

Article 9: Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Article 10: Right to freedom of expression

Article 11: Right to freedom of assembly and association

Article 12: Right to marry

Article 14: Right not to be discriminated against

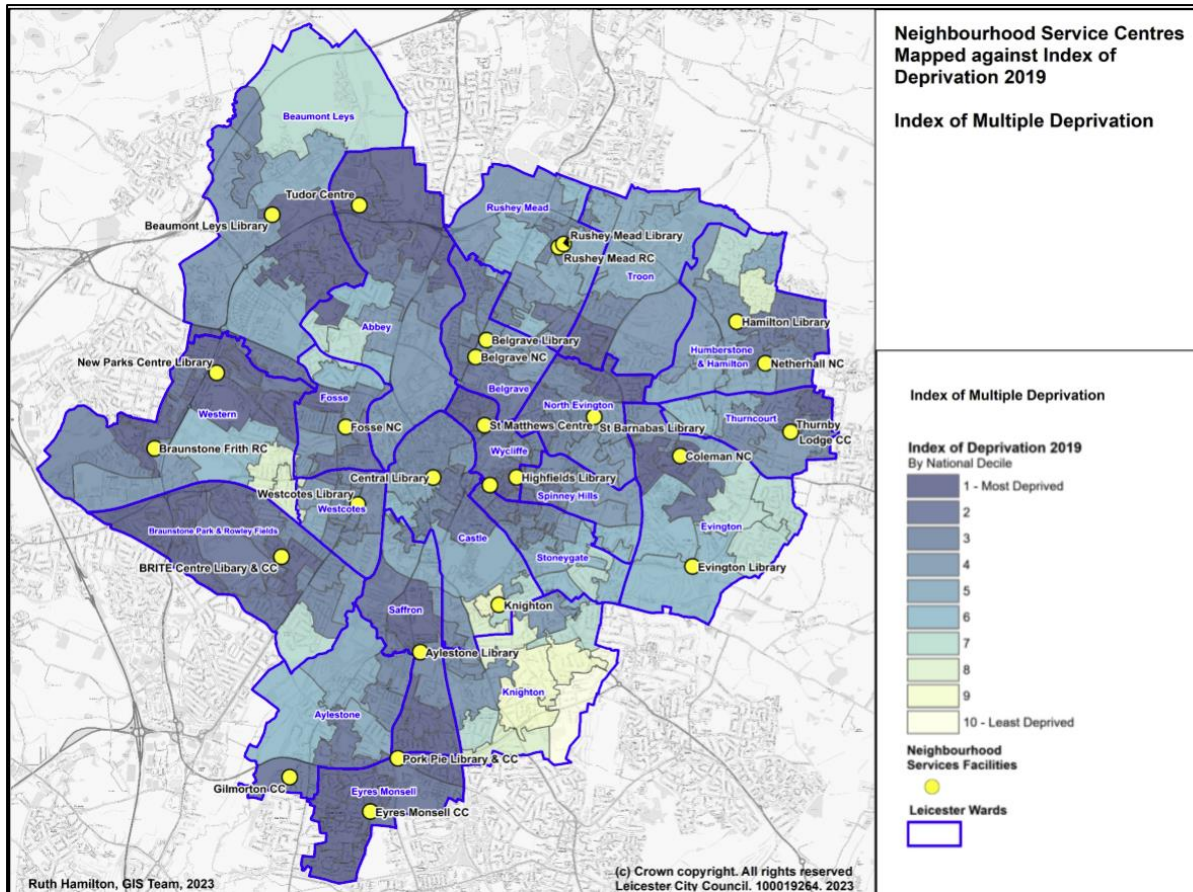
Part 2: First protocol

Article 1: Protection of property/peaceful enjoyment

Article 2: Right to education

Article 3: Right to free elections

Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Services facilities plotted over the indices of multiple deprivation.

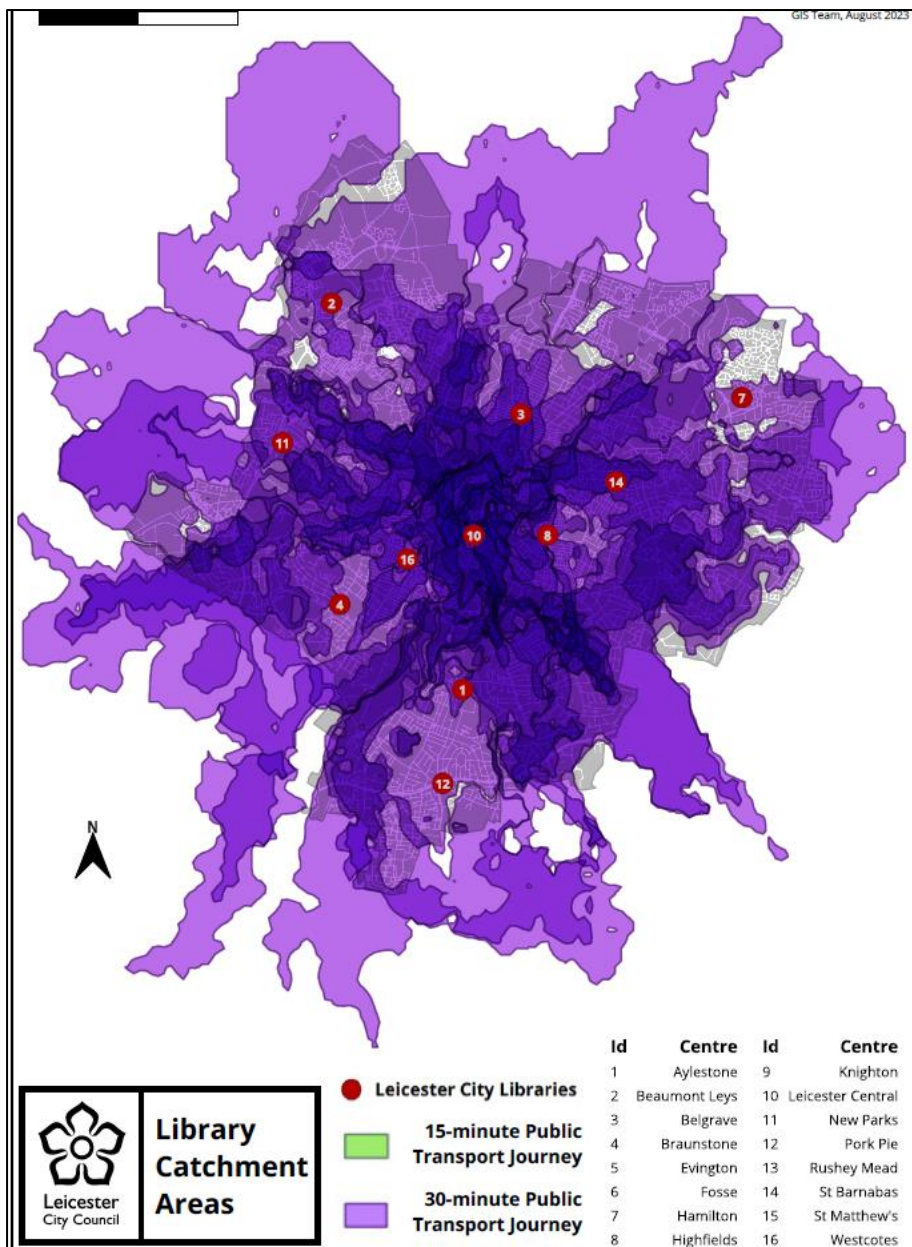


Appendix 2 – Proposed building withdrawals - breakdown of potential impacts on protected characteristics

Building	Impact of proposal	Mitigating actions
<p>Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre</p>	<p>Age - High use by older people including mens/ladies exercise groups & large daily lunch club Children – Private pre-school runs week-daily</p> <p>Disability – Many older customers have mobility issues; Some customers have mental and physical disabilities - Pukha group is a disabilities group</p> <p>Pregnancy and maternity - Pregnancy/Toddler classes</p> <p>Race – Primary usage by Asian customers of Indian descent. A high proportion of non-English Gujarati speakers identified in the engagement survey.</p> <p>Religion or belief – Local community is predominantly Hindu – customer base reflects this.</p> <p>Sex - Gender specific exercise classes take place each week day</p>	<p>Opportunity for community running, although the centre is large and complex to run, Grade II listed.</p> <p>Signposting to nearby local providers: Less than 2km away from Belgrave Library, Belgrave & Rushey Mead Children Young People & Family Centres, Peepul Centre, Gheewala Lohana Centre, Sanatan Manvta Day Centre (some of these buildings are specific to certain religions)</p> <p>Number of local temples</p> <p>Local Leisure Centre</p>
<p>Braunstone Frith Recreation Centre</p>	<p>Age - Food bank - Children in poverty Fortnightly coffee morning - older users hyper local</p>	<p>Make available for Community Asset Transfer</p> <p>Signpost to alternative providers: Less than 2km away from Allextion Youth & Community, New Parks Library, Kirby Muxloe Library and Glenfield Library.</p>
<p>Coleman Neighbourhood Centre</p>	<p>Age – Pre school runs week days Bowls club – predominantly elderly people</p> <p>Disability - Some customers have mental and physical disability</p> <p>Race – Primary usage by Asian/British Asian as below</p>	<p>Make available for Community Asset Transfer - some local capacity Coleman lodge community centre nearby for community room hire</p> <p>Less than 2km away from St Barnabas Library, Hamilton Library & Nearby madrassah at Coleman Lodge Community Centre</p>

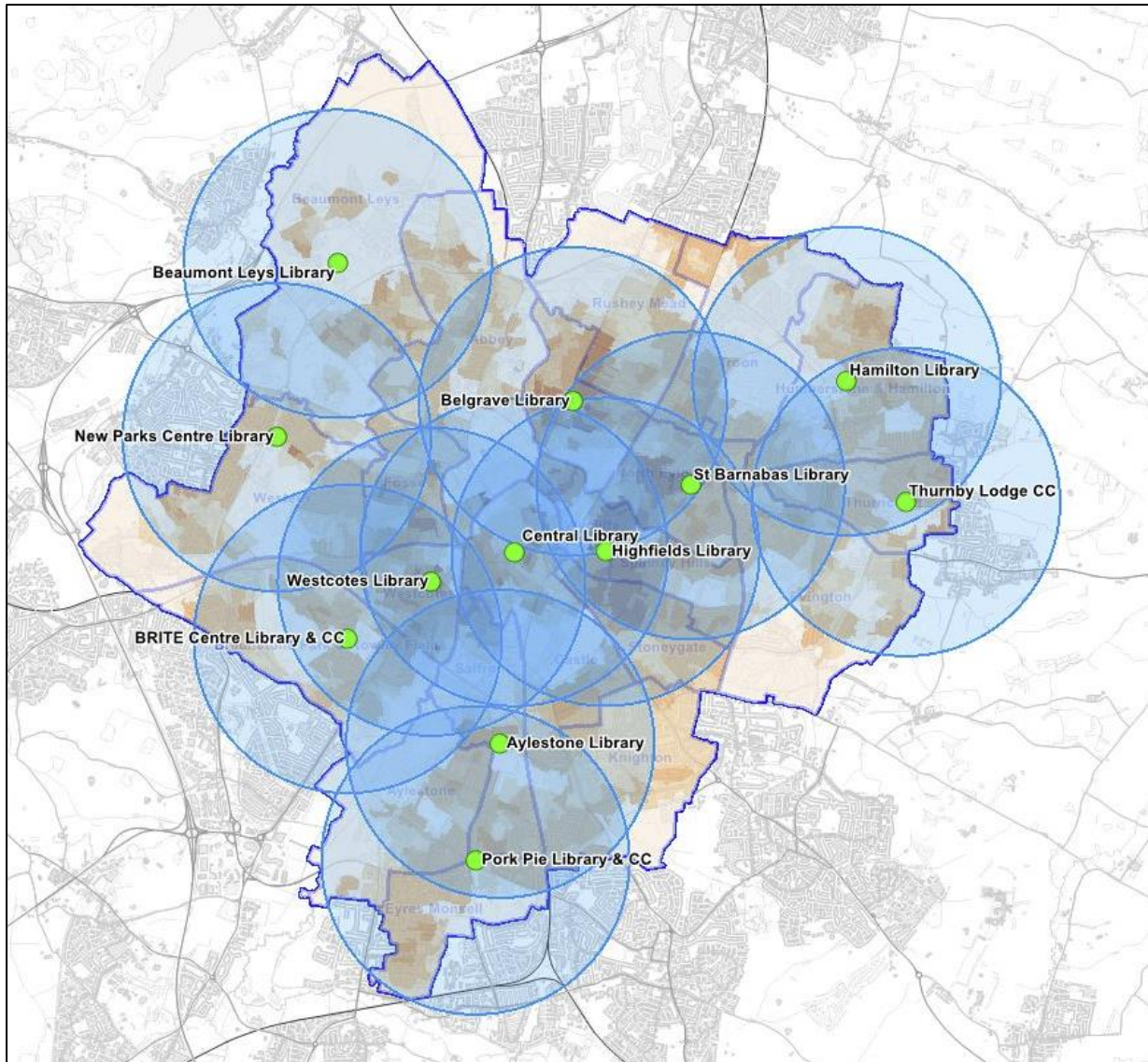
	Religion or belief – Daily Madrassah and prayer group	
Evington Library	Age – Higher proportion of young people use library Pregnancy and maternity – Toddler Time session runs weekly	Opportunity for Community running
Eyres Monsell Community Centre	Age – Classes focused on younger and older people – dance class and theatre group Disability – Some older users identify disabilities Religion or belief – Madrassah group takes place at the centre	Opportunity for community running Less than 2km away from Pork Pie Library, South Wigston Library, Glen Hills Library
Fosse Neighbourhood Centre and Library	Children in Poverty - Alice Hawkins Community Foodbank (weekly) has good use. Age – Higher proportion of young people use library Pregnancy and maternity – Toddler Time session runs weekly	Signpost library users to alternative services: There are 3 libraries in close proximity - Westcotes Library, New Parks Library, Brite Centre Library Foodbank: work with foodbank to find suitable premises Community groups – we will work with groups to find alternative venues. Nearby community room hire is available at: Brite Centre, New Parks Library, Newfoundpool Community Centre, Woodgate Community Centre
Gilmorton Community Rooms	Age – Fortnightly foodbank – around 20 people	Opportunity for community running
Knighton Library	Age – Higher proportion of young people use library Pregnancy and maternity – Toddler Time session runs weekly	Opportunity for Community running
Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre	Age – Preschool and youth activities – dance classes	Opportunity for Community running Community groups will be support to find alternative venues Less than 2km from Hamilton Library
Rushey Mead Recreation Centre	Age – High use by elderly customers Disability – Older users with disabilities	Opportunity for Community running Community groups will be support to find alternative venues

	<p>Race – Primary use by Indian customers</p> <p>Religion or belief – Religious Groups</p> <p>Sex – Mens Milap group and ladies only yoga</p>	Nearby community room hire at Soar Valley College
Rushey Mead Library	<p>Age – High use by younger customers</p> <p>Pregnancy and maternity – Toddler Time sessions</p> <p>Race – Primary use by Indian customers</p>	<p>Opportunity for community running.</p> <p>Less than 2km away from Belgrave Library with significant cross usage.</p>
St Matthews Centre	<p>Age – Pre School</p> <p>Disability – Disabled groups</p> <p>Pregnancy and Maternity – Toddler Time</p> <p>Race – Higher impact on Black users</p> <p>Religion or Belief – Church groups</p>	<p>The library will be re-located to another building in the St Matthews Estate.</p> <p>Less than 2km away from Highfields Library, African Caribbean Centre, Belgrave Library, The Peepul Centre, The What Cabin</p>
Tudor Centre	<p>Age - Play Group - parent & toddler Pre School Adult Learning classes</p> <p>Disability - Mosaic Disability Group</p> <p>Pregnancy and maternity - Play Group - parent & toddler</p> <p>Religion or belief - Islamic prayer group Sunday school</p>	<p>Opportunity for community running</p> <p>Less than 2km away from Beaumont Leys Library, Beaumont Leys & Stocking Farm Children Young People and Family Centres, Bewcastle Children Young People and Family Centres, Beaumont Leys Leisure Centre</p>



Appendix 3 – Public transport map showing a 30 minute bus journey to each retained library facility

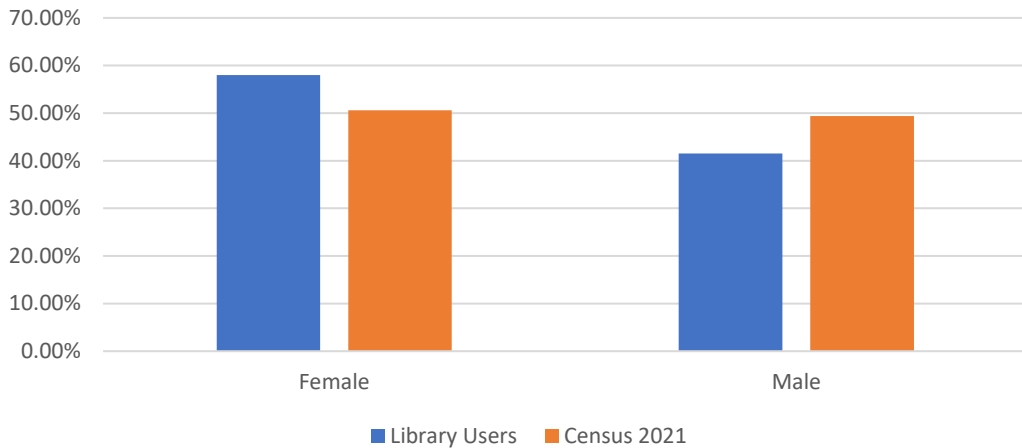
Appendix 4 – Map show retained library centres with 1.25 mile catchments. 96% of city residents are within a 1.25 mile radius of a library centre.



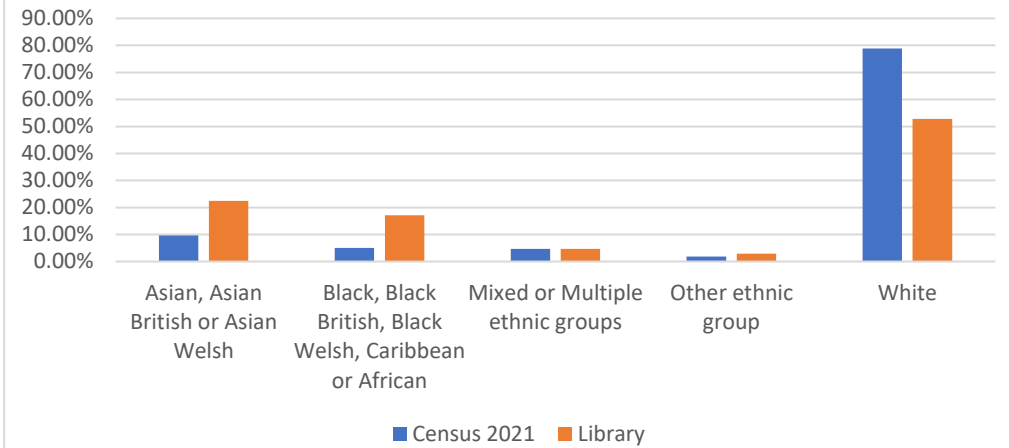
Appendix 5 – Library gender, ethnicity and age ward comparison graphs

Aylestone Library

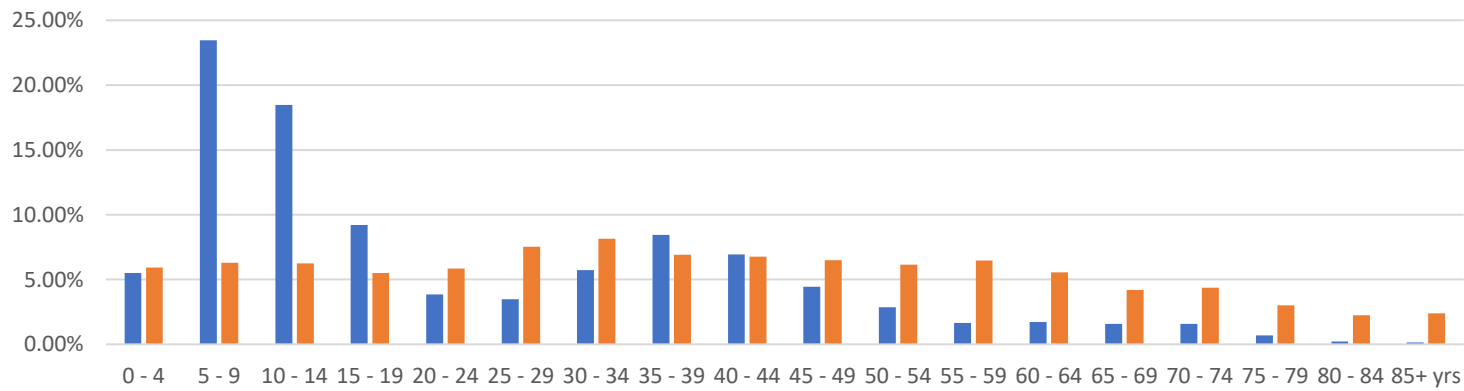
Comparison of Gender Profiles: Aylestone Library vs. Aylestone Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Aylestone Library vs. Aylestone Ward (Census 2021)

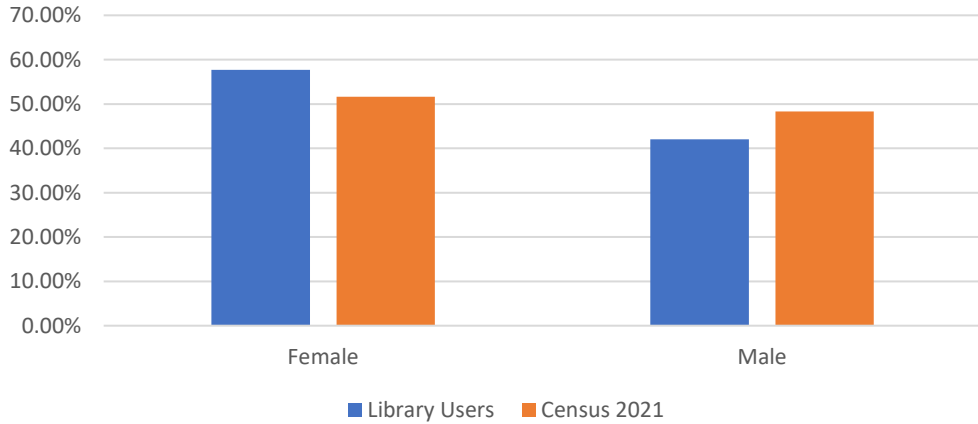


Comparison of Age Profiles: Ayleston Library vs. Aylestone Ward (Census 2021)

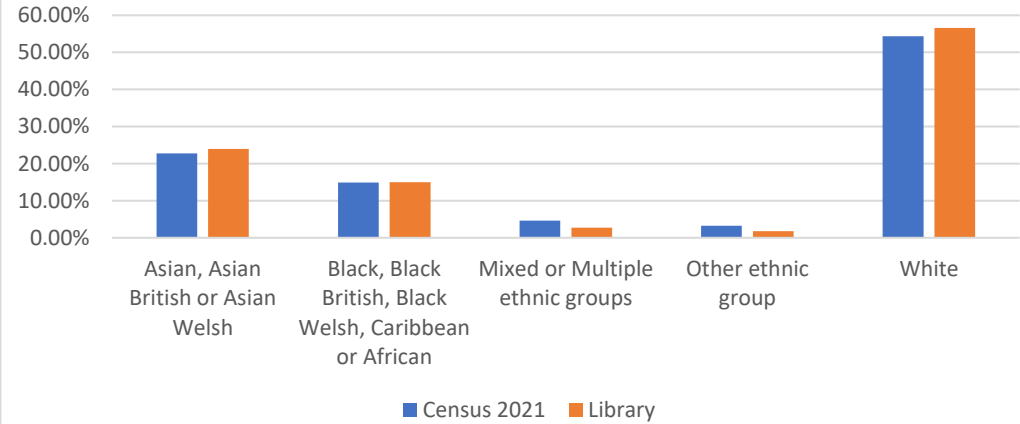


Beaumont Leys

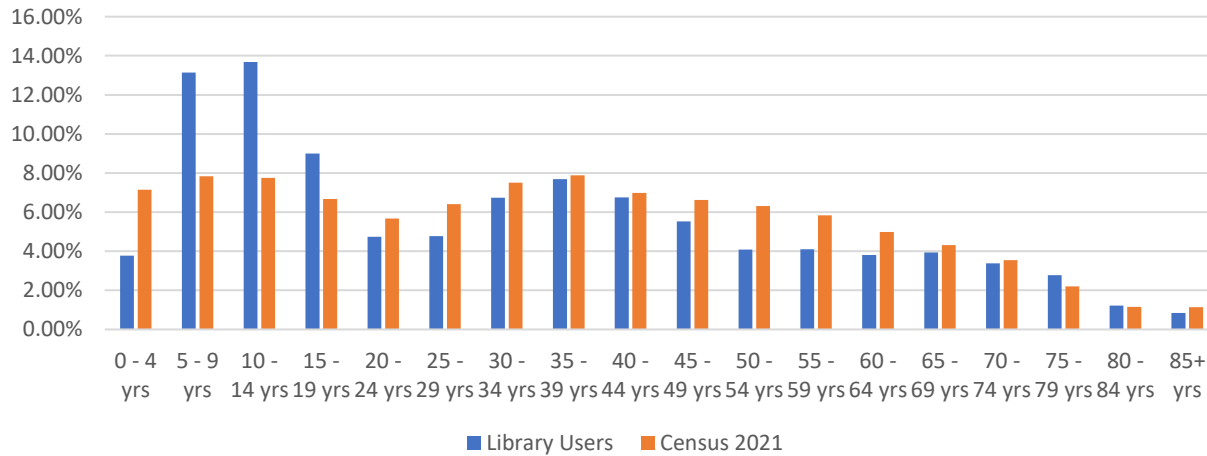
Comparison of Gender Profiles: Beaumont Leys Library vs. Beaumont Leys Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Beaumont Leys Library vs. Beaumont Leys Ward (Census 2021)

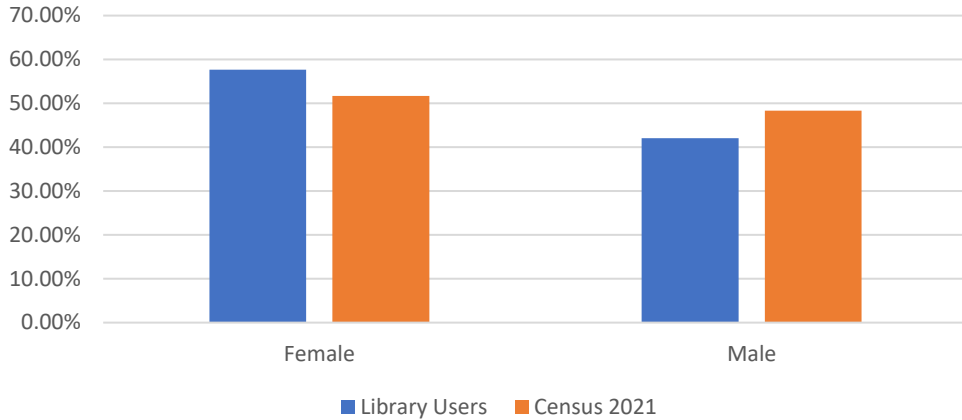


Comparison of Gender Profiles: Beaumont Leys Library vs. Beaumont Leys Ward (Census 2021)

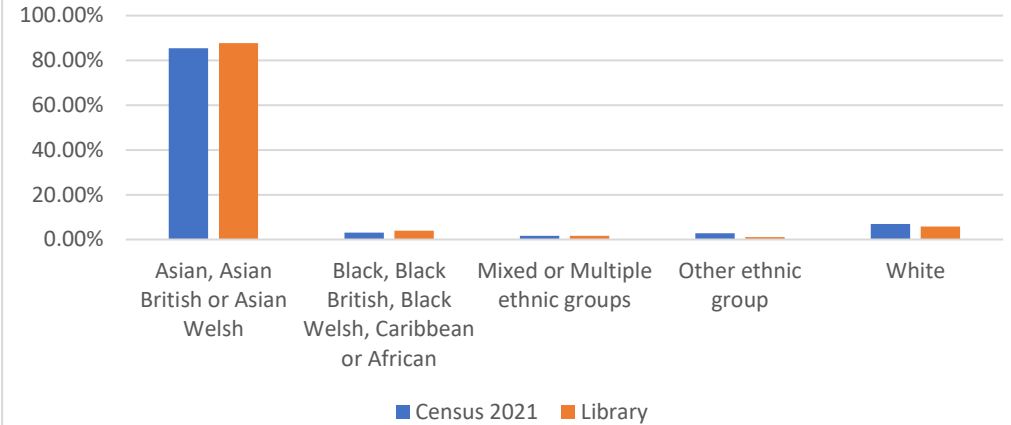


Belgrave Library

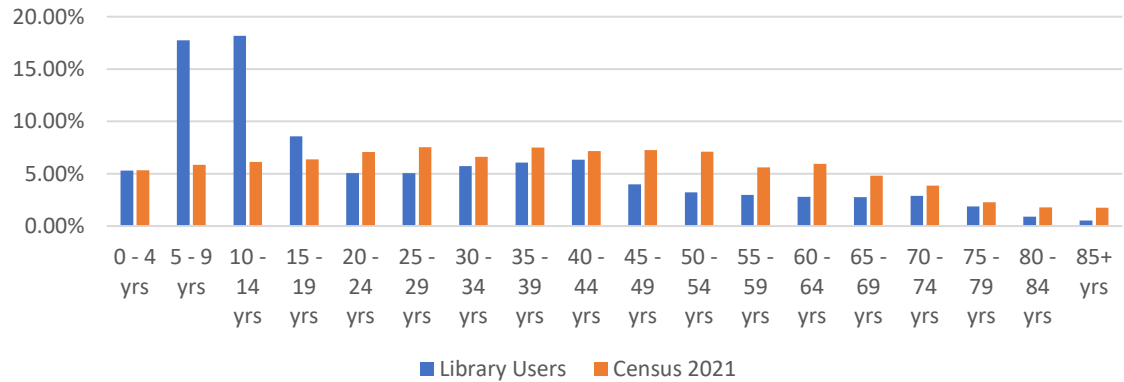
Comparison of Gender Profiles: Belgrave Library vs. Belgrave Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Belgrave Library vs. Belgrave Ward (Census 2021)

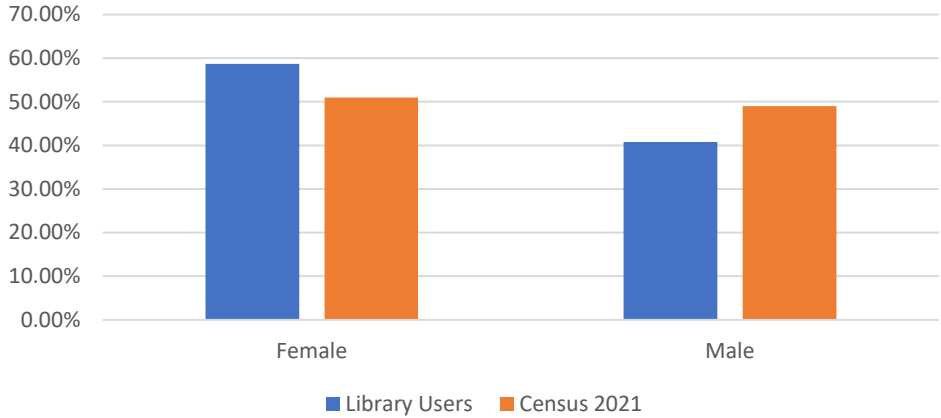


Comparison of Age Profiles: Belgrave Library vs. Belgrave Ward (Census 2021)

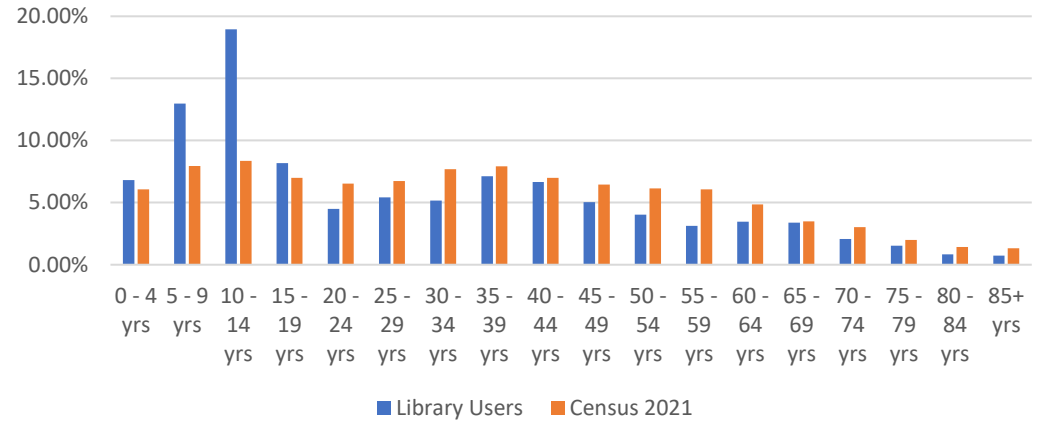


BRITE Centre

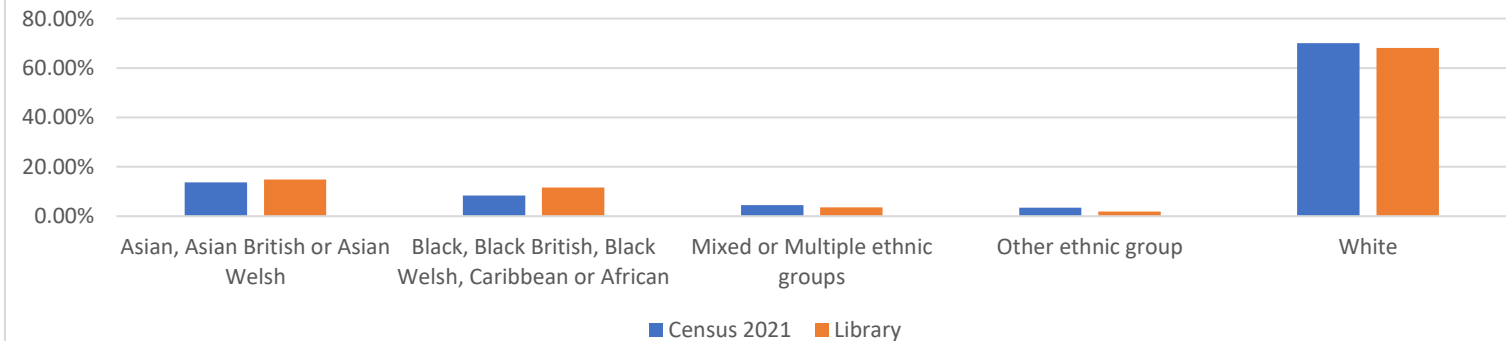
BRITE Centre Library vs Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Ward



Comparison of Age Profiles: BRITE Centre Library vs Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields Ward

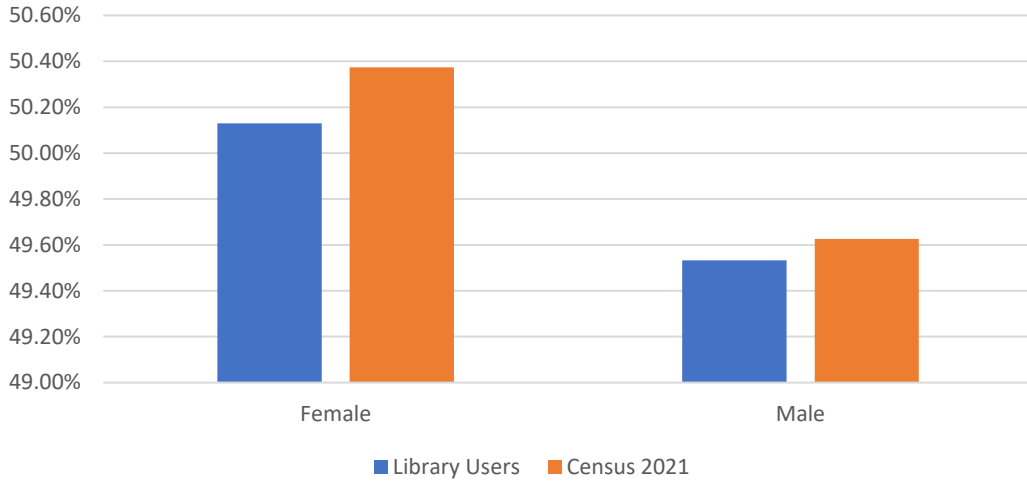


Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles BRITE Centre Library vs. Braunstone Park & Rowley Feilds Ward (Census 2021)

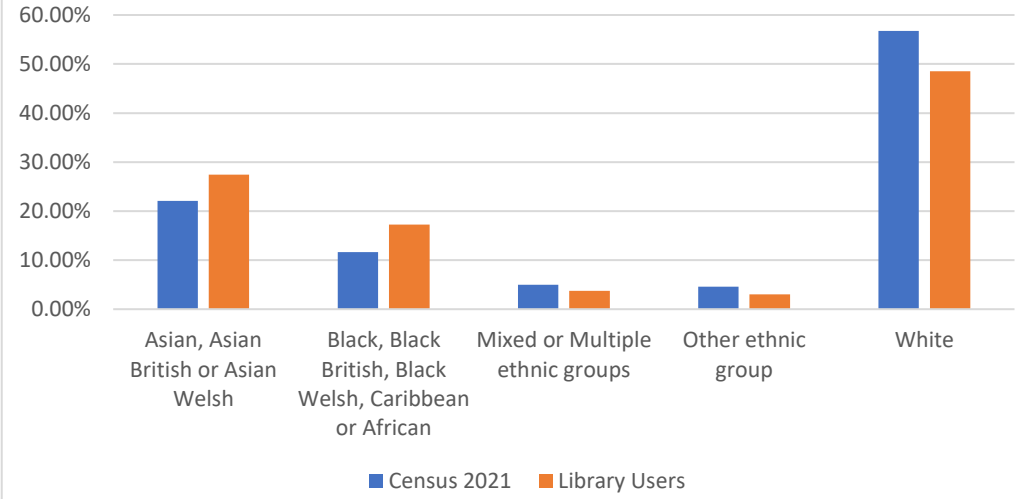


Leicester Central Library

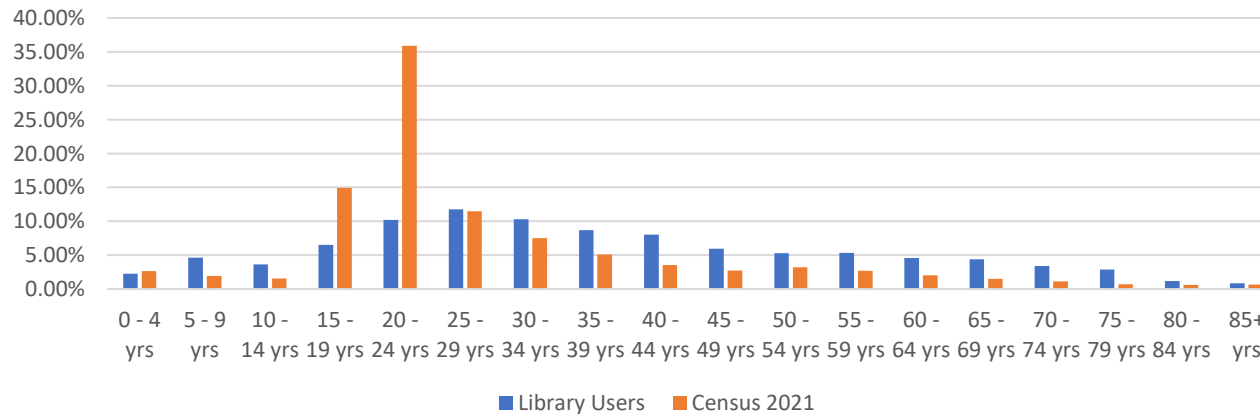
Comparison of Gender Profiles: Central Library Users vs. Castle Ward (Census 2021)



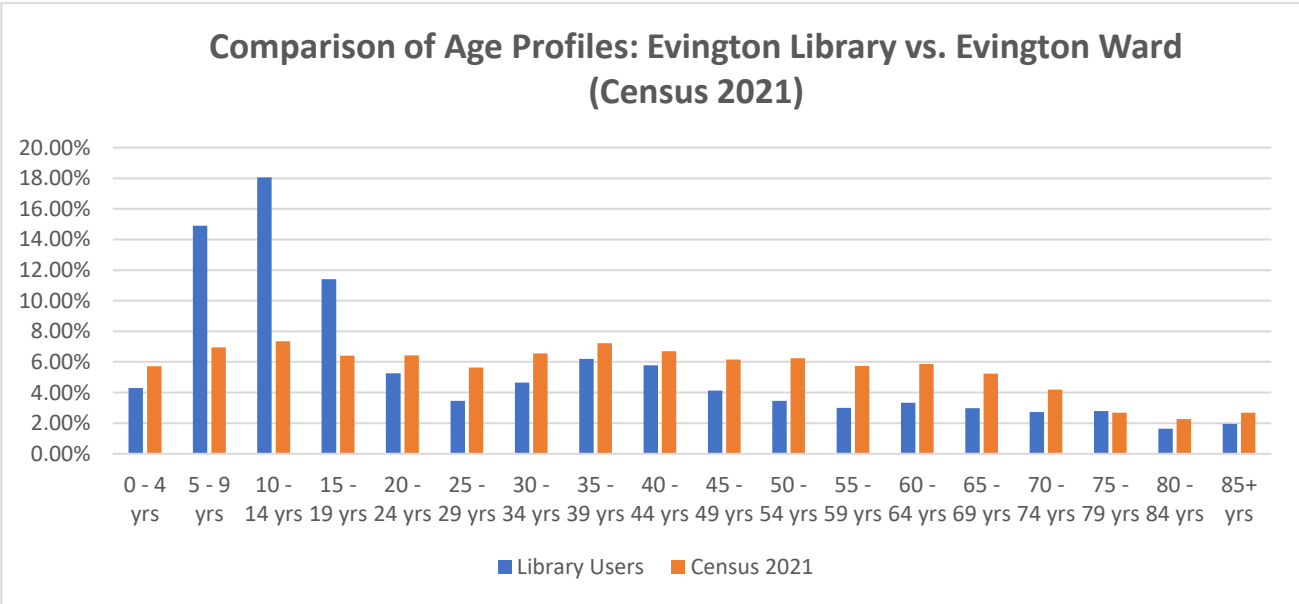
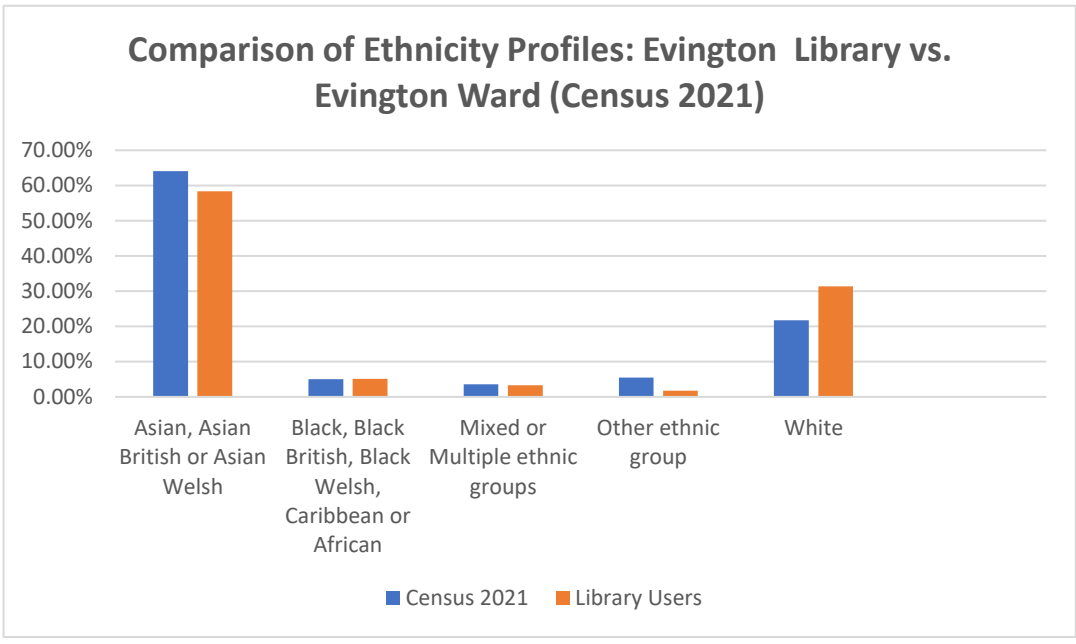
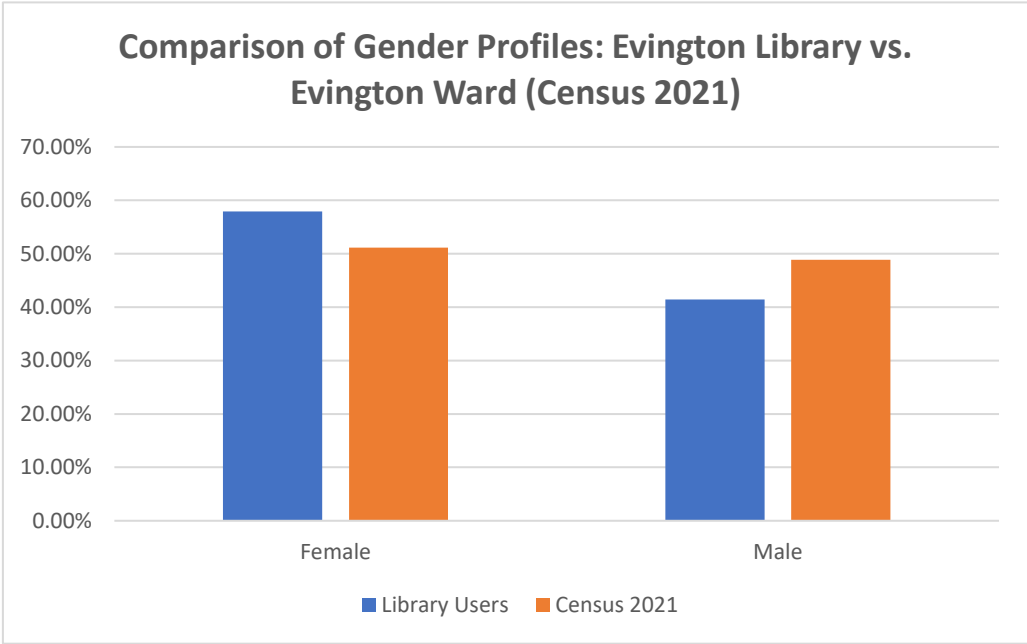
Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Central Library Users vs. Castle Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Age Profiles: Central Library Users vs. Castle Ward (Census 2021)

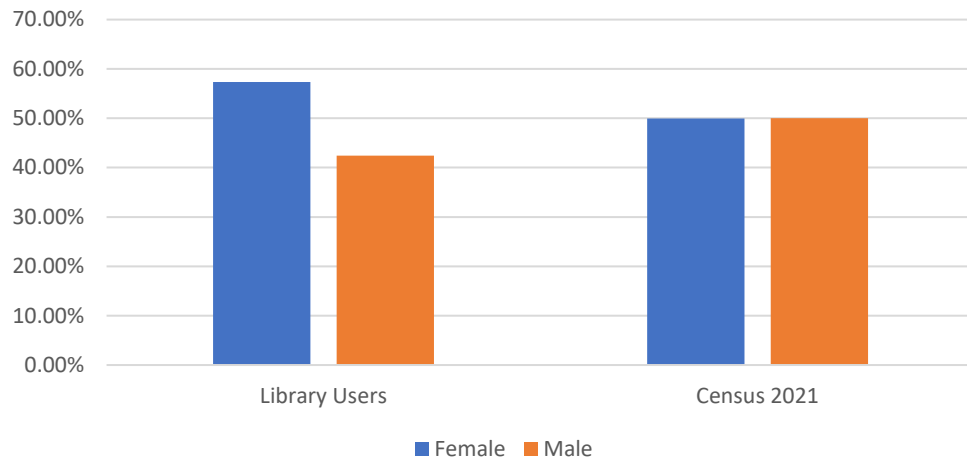


Evington Library

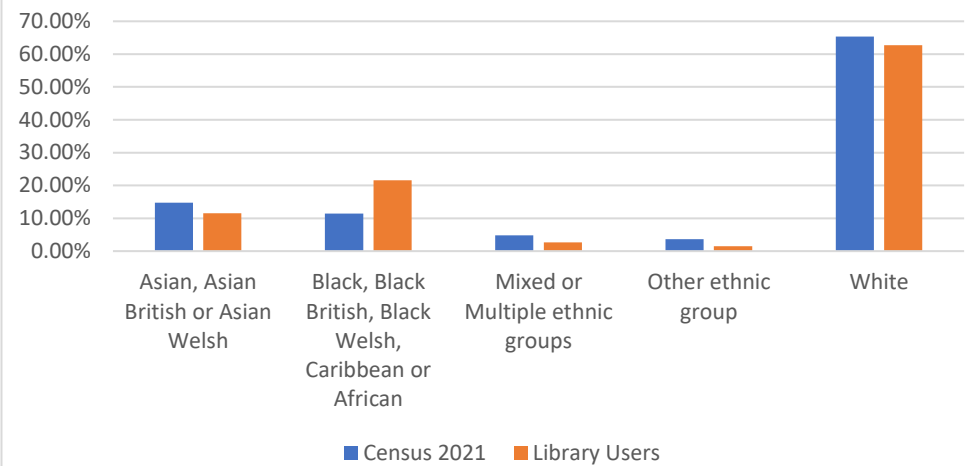


Fosse Library

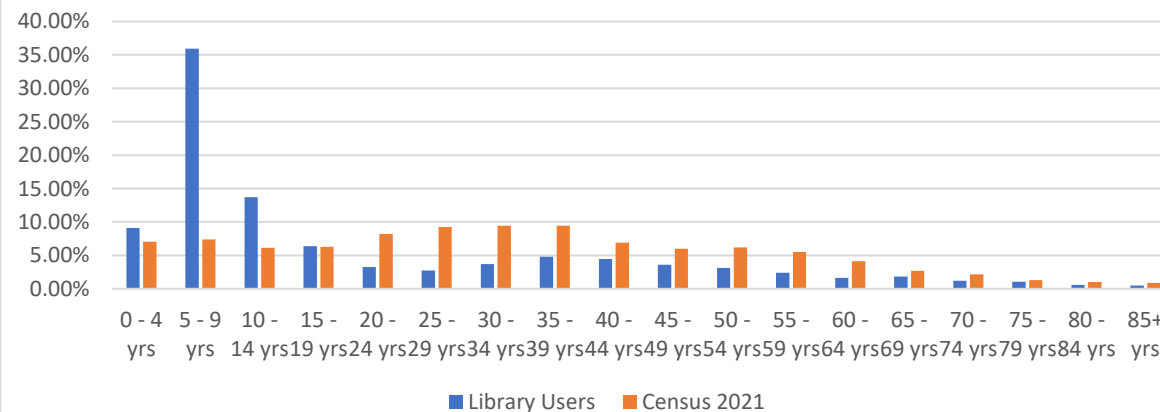
Comparison of Gender Profiles: Fosse Library Users vs. Fosse Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Fosse Library vs. Fosse Ward (Census 2021)

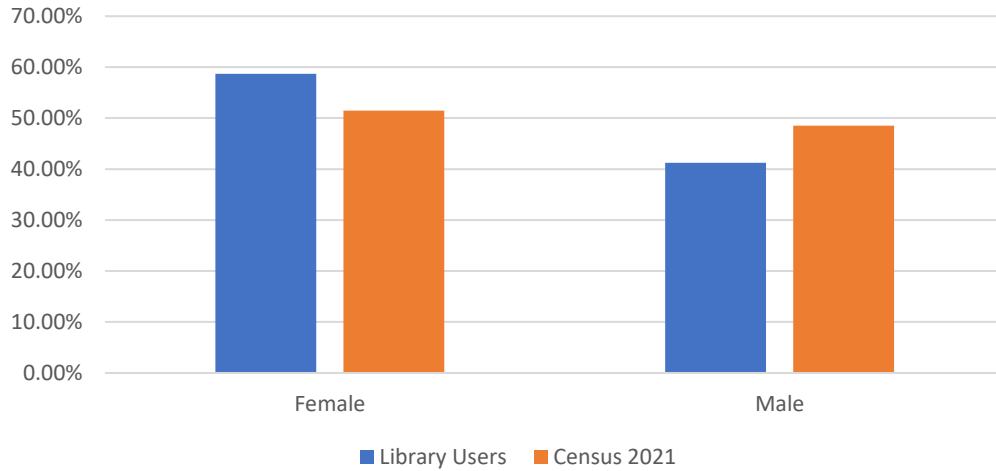


Comparison of Age Profiles: Fosse Library Users vs. Fosse Ward (Census 2021)

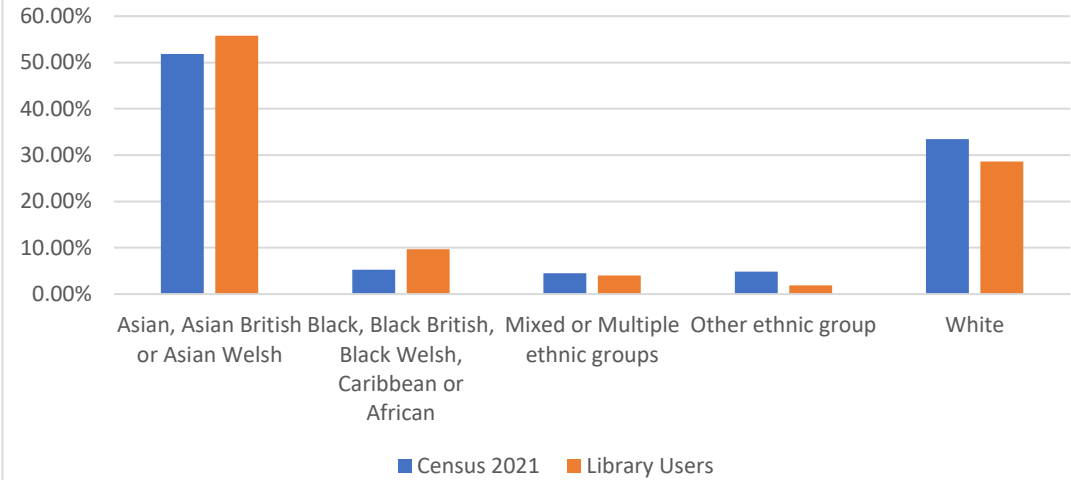


Hamilton Library

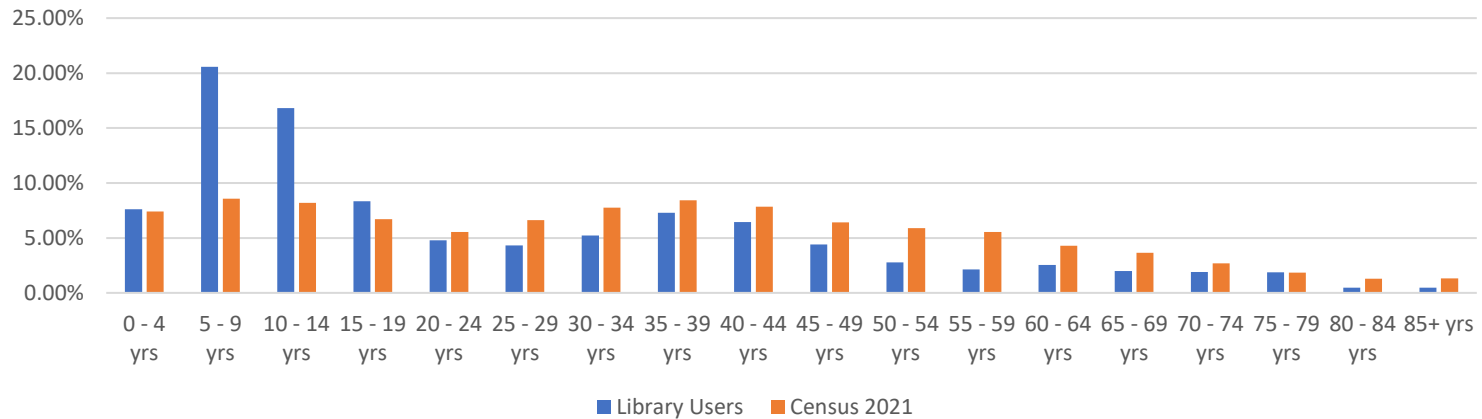
Comparison of Gender Profiles: Hamilton Library vs. Humberstone & Hamilton Ward (Census 2021)



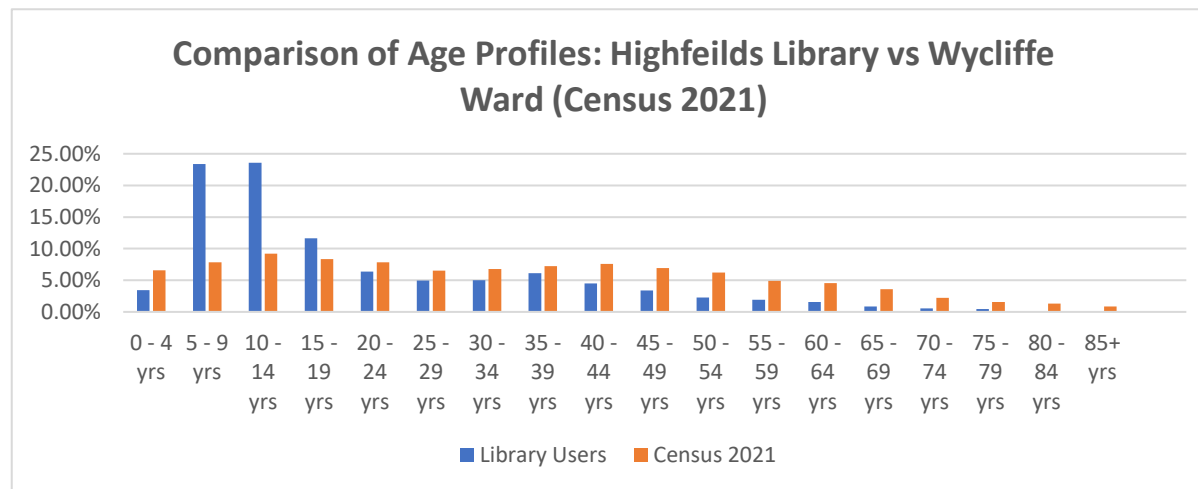
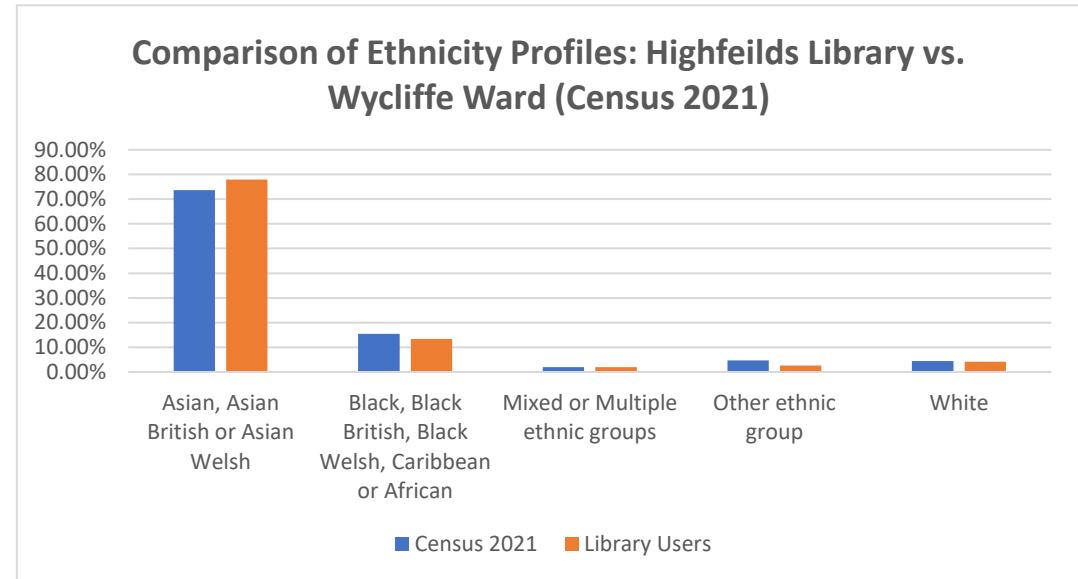
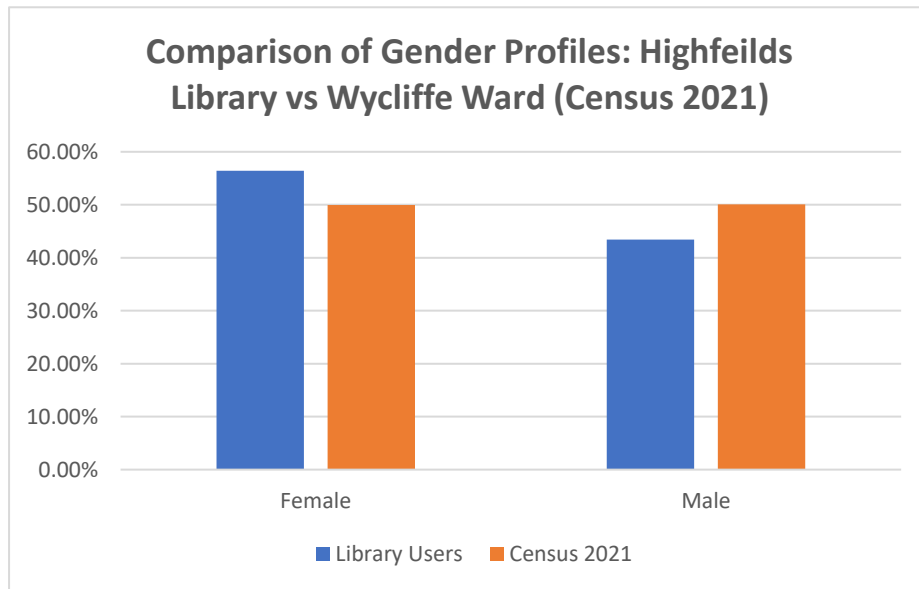
Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Hamilton Library vs. Humberstone & Hamilton Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Age Profiles: Hamilton Library vs. Humberstone & Hamilton Ward (Census 2021)

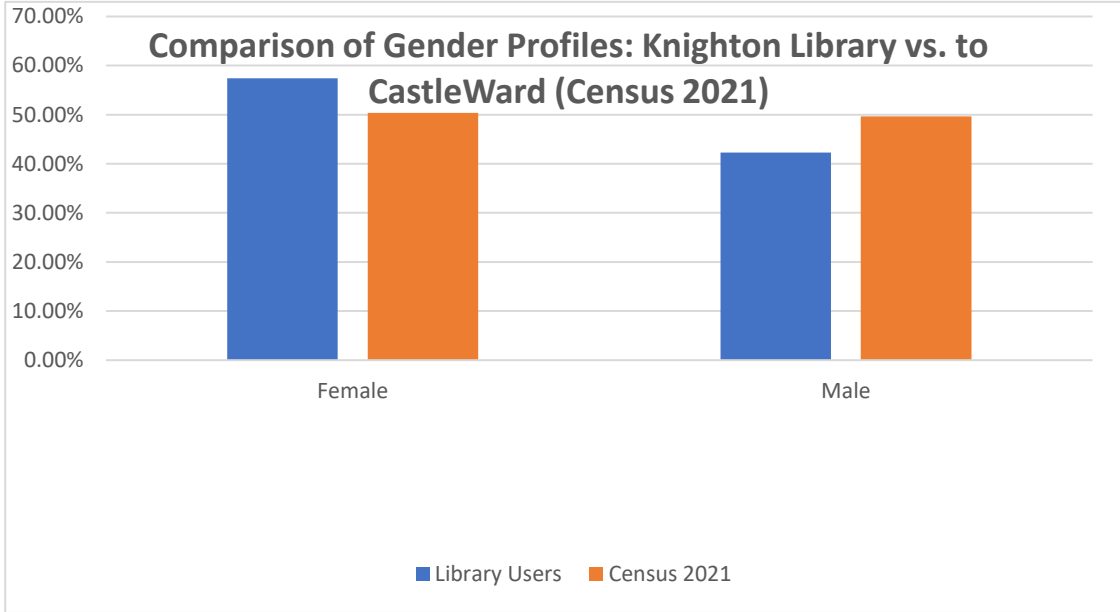


Highfields Library

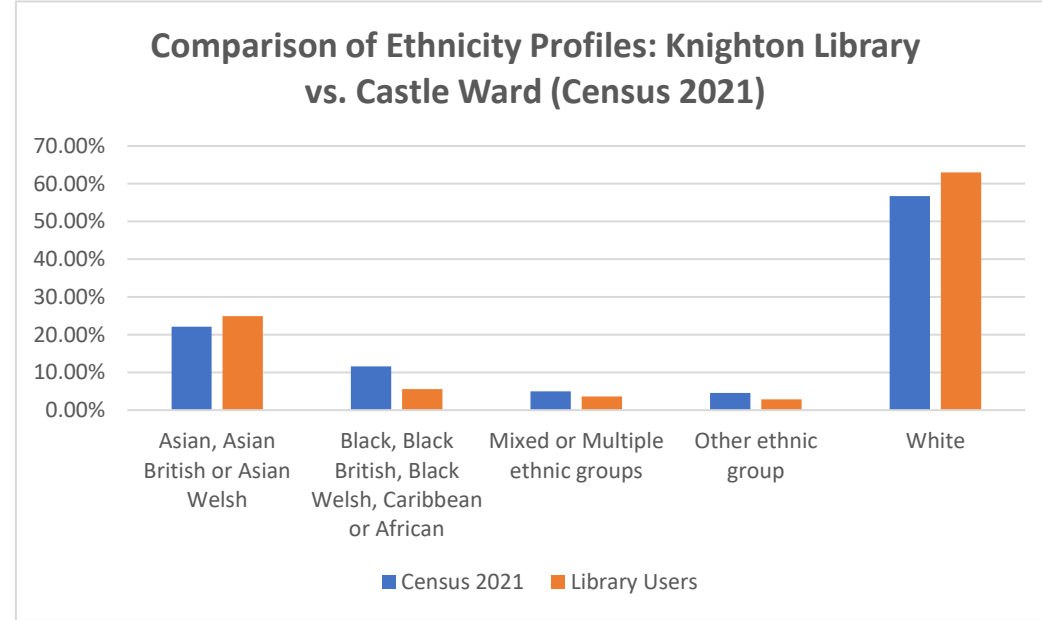


Knighton Library

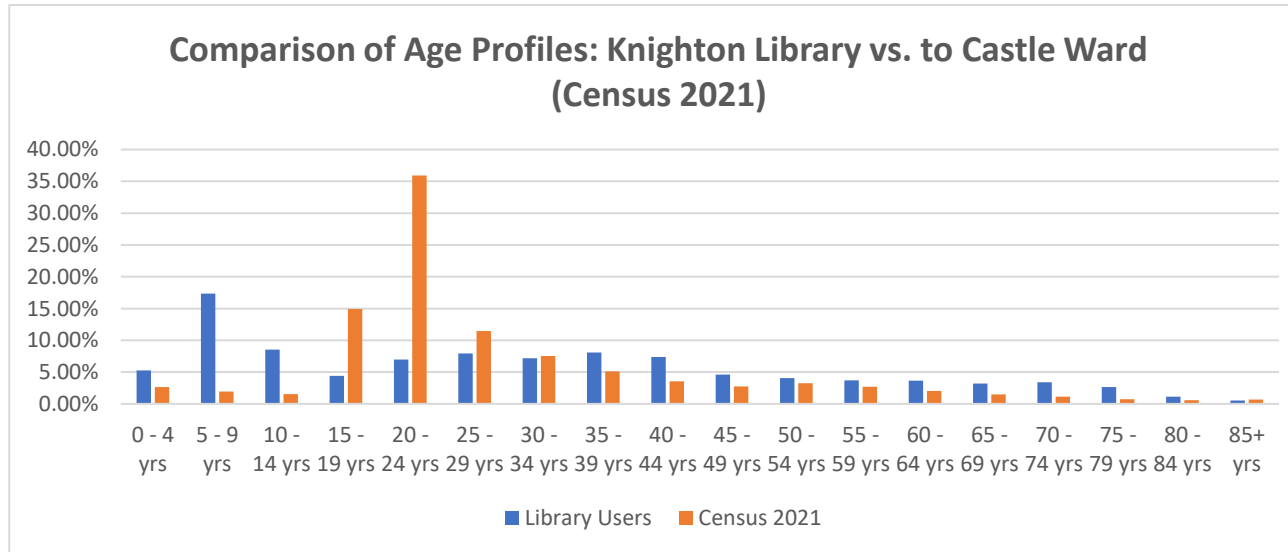
Comparison of Gender Profiles: Knighton Library vs. to CastleWard (Census 2021)



Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Knighton Library vs. Castle Ward (Census 2021)

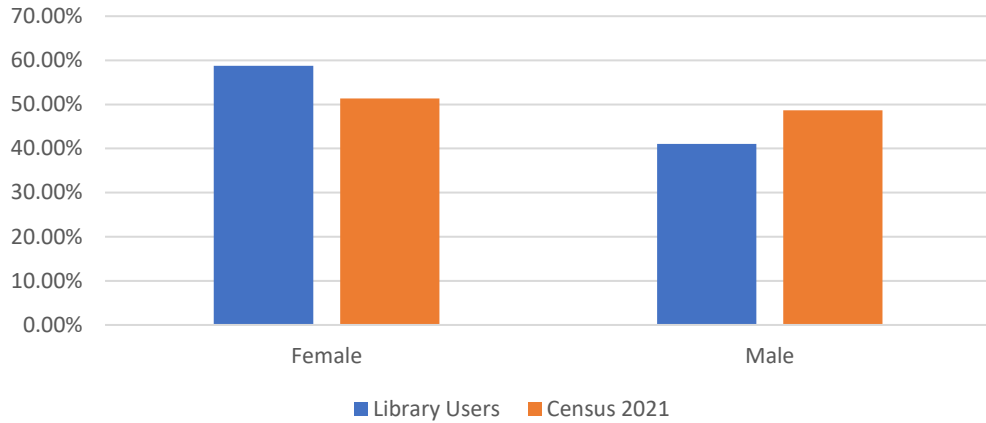


Comparison of Age Profiles: Knighton Library vs. to Castle Ward (Census 2021)

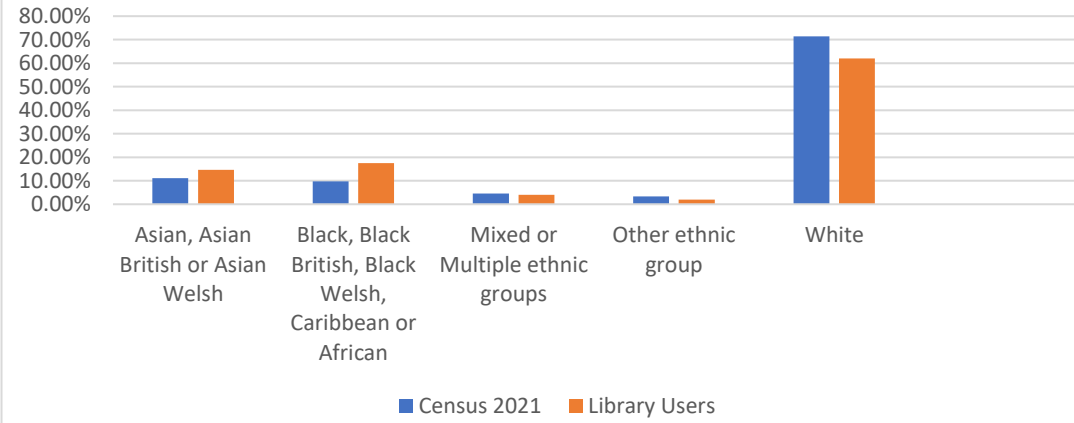


New Parks

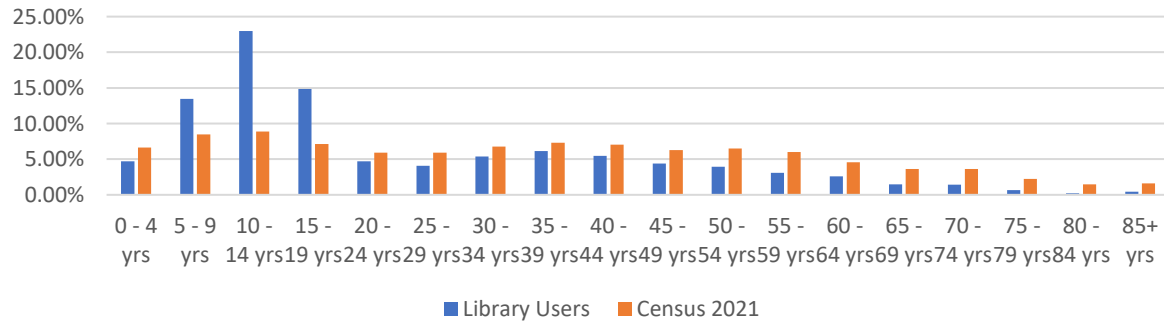
Comparison of Gender Profiles: New Parks Library vs. Western Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: New Parks Library vs. Western Ward (Census 2021)

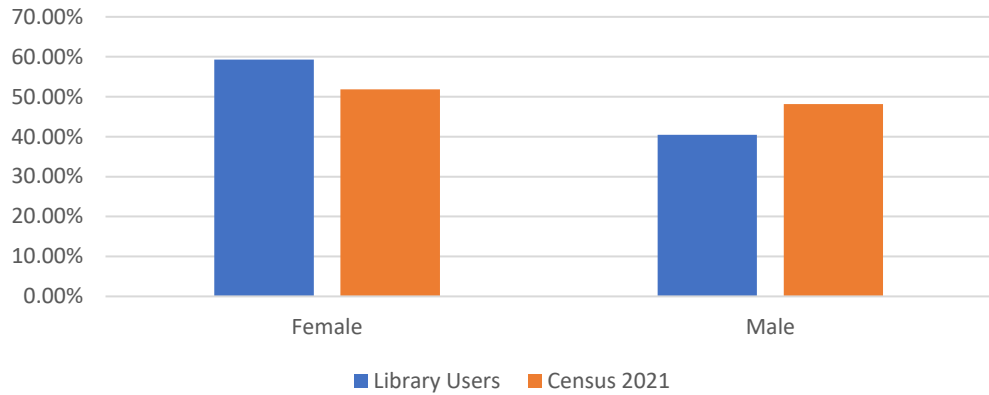


Comparison of Age Profiles: New Parks Library vs. Western Ward (Census 2021)

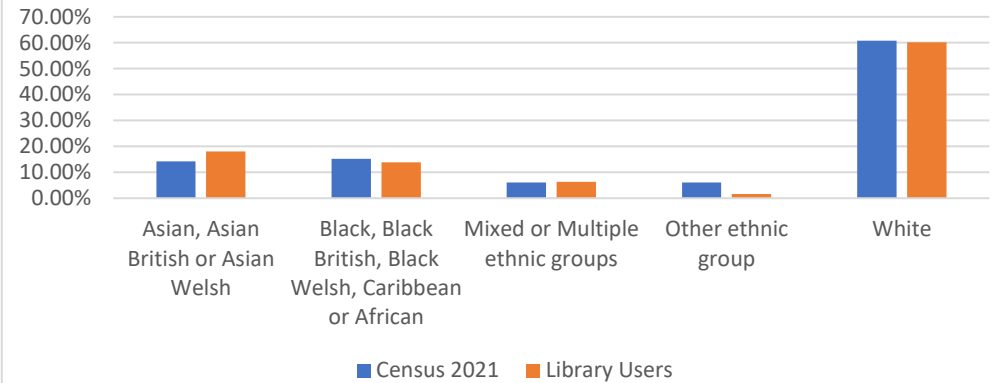


Pork Pie

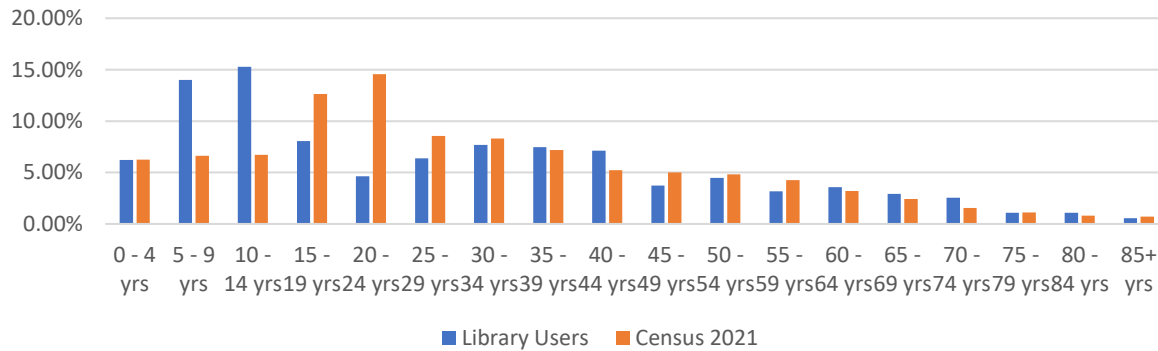
Comparison of Gender Profiles: Pork Pie Library vs. Saffron Ward (Census 2021)



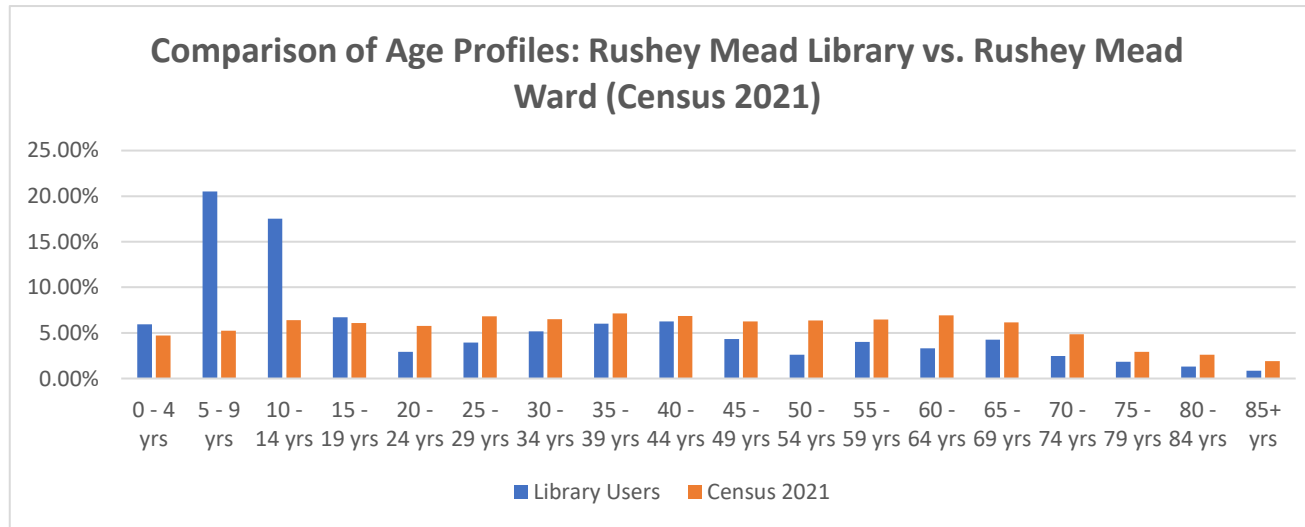
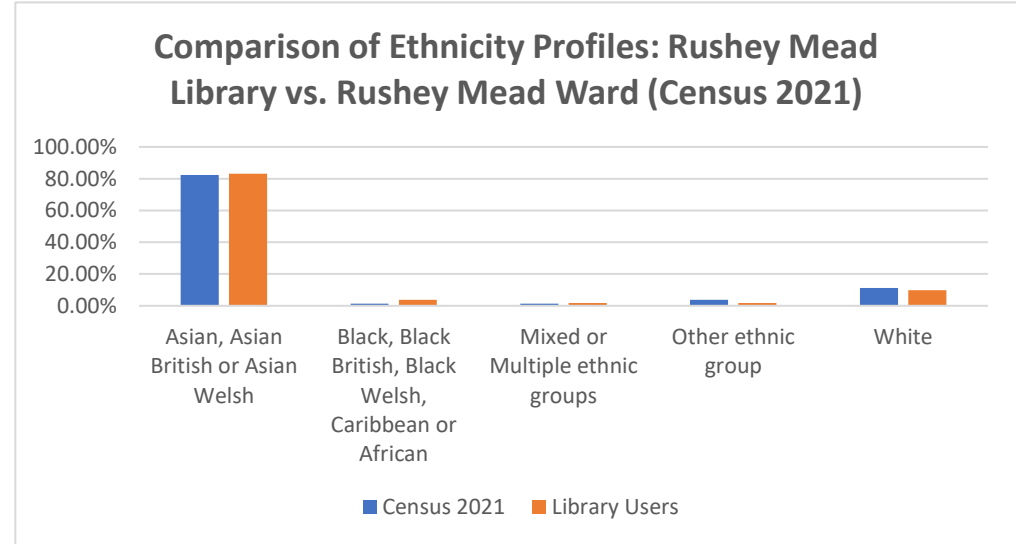
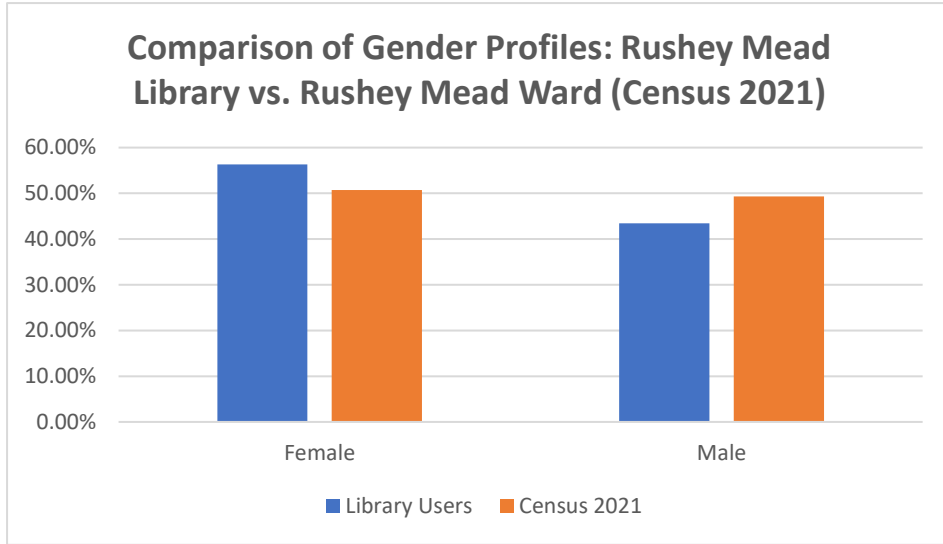
Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Pork Pie Library vs. Saffron Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Age Profiles: Pork Pie Library vs. Saffron Ward (Census 2021)

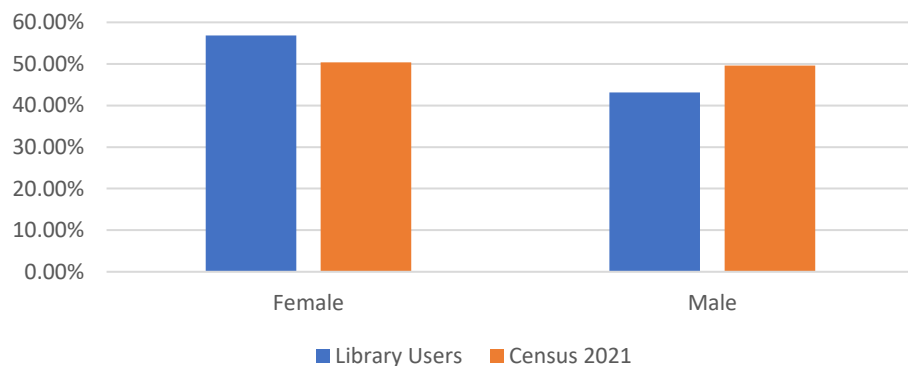


Rushey Mead Library

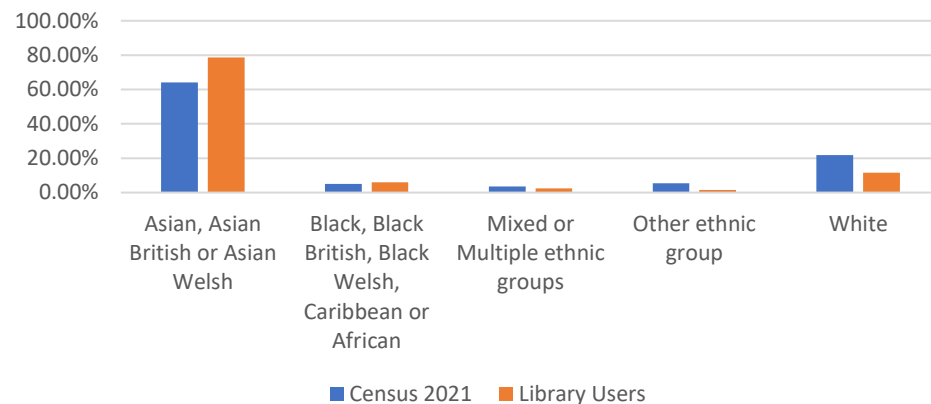


St Barnabas Library

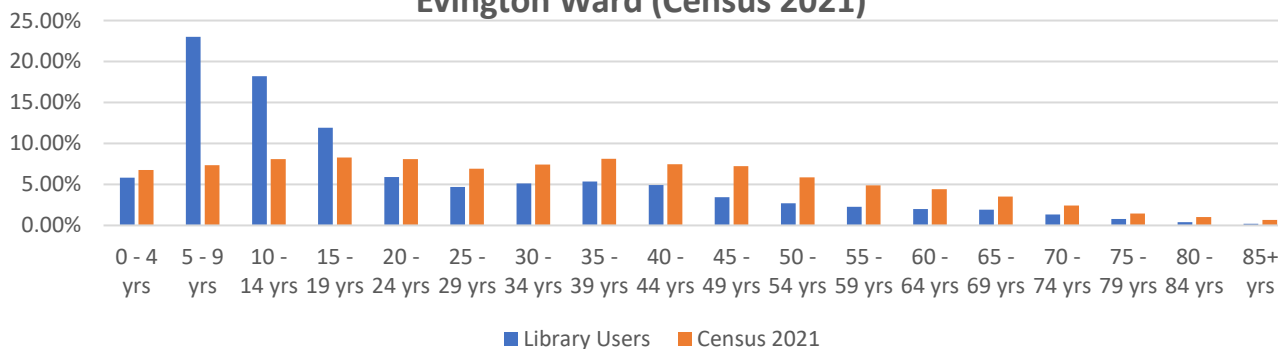
Comparison of Gender Profiles: St Barnabas Library vs. to North Evington Ward (Census 2021)



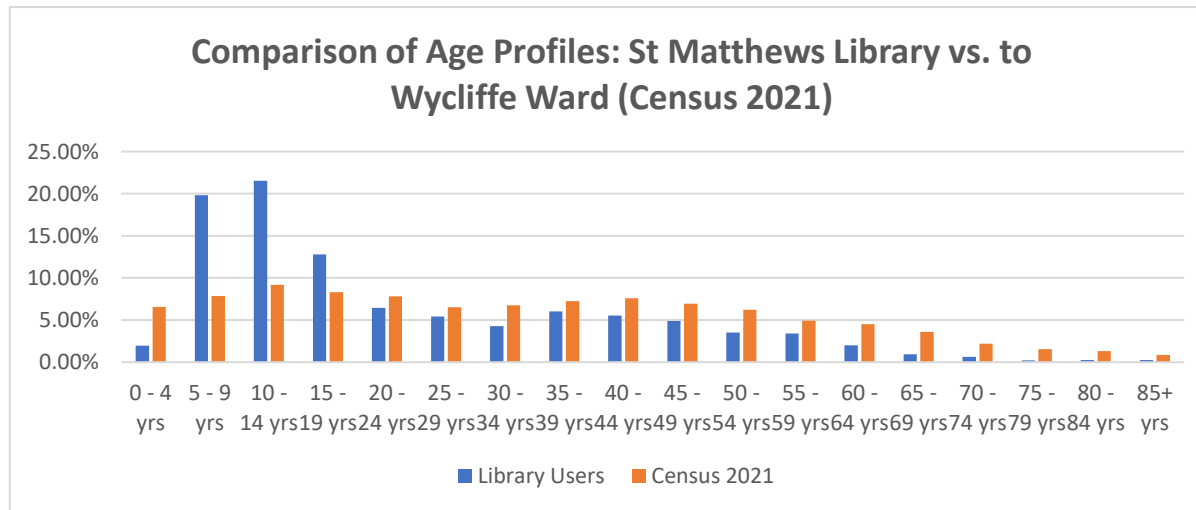
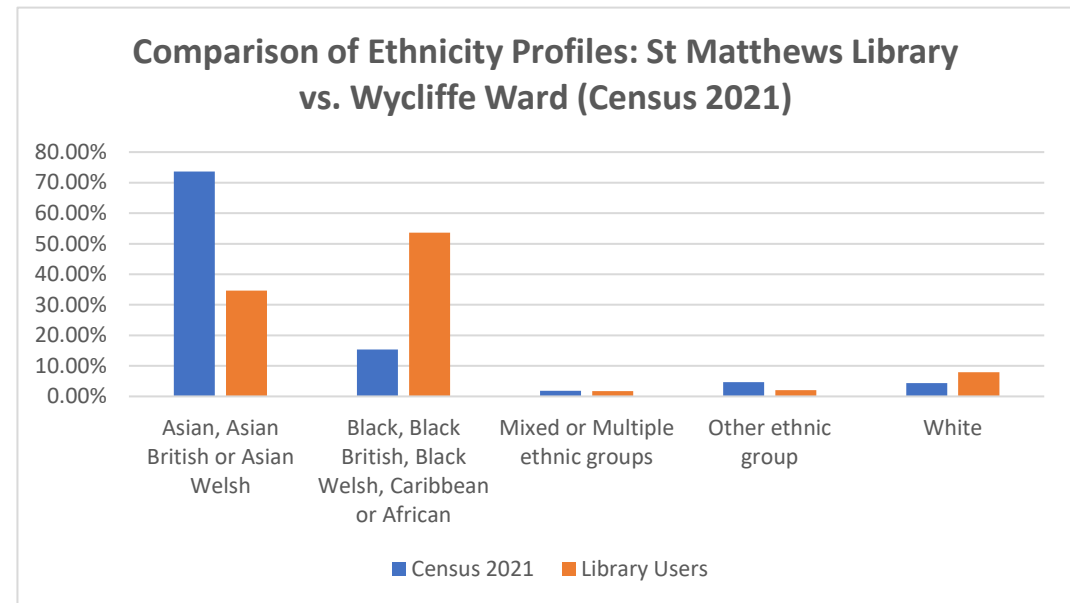
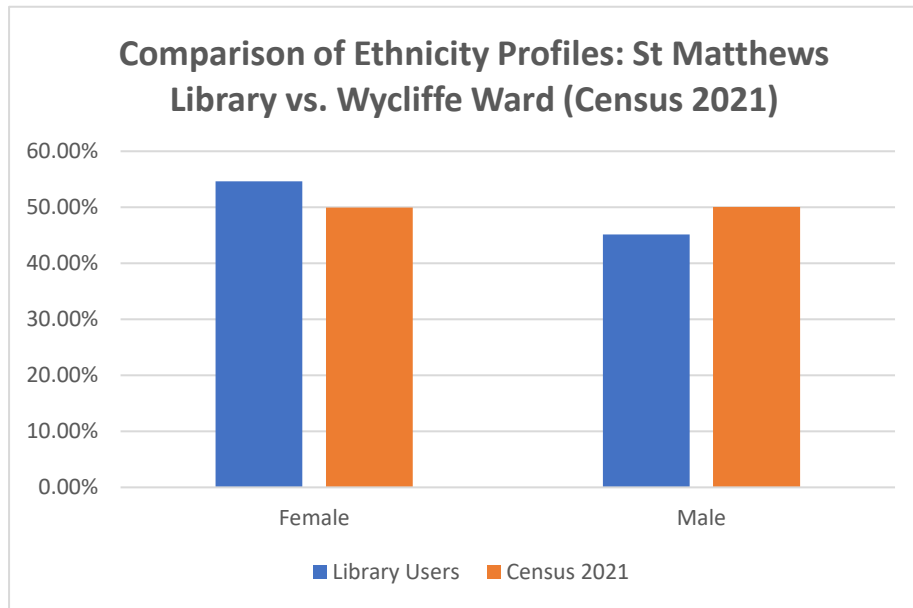
Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: St Barnabas Library vs. Rushey Mead Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Age Profiles: St Barnabas Library vs. to North Evington Ward (Census 2021)

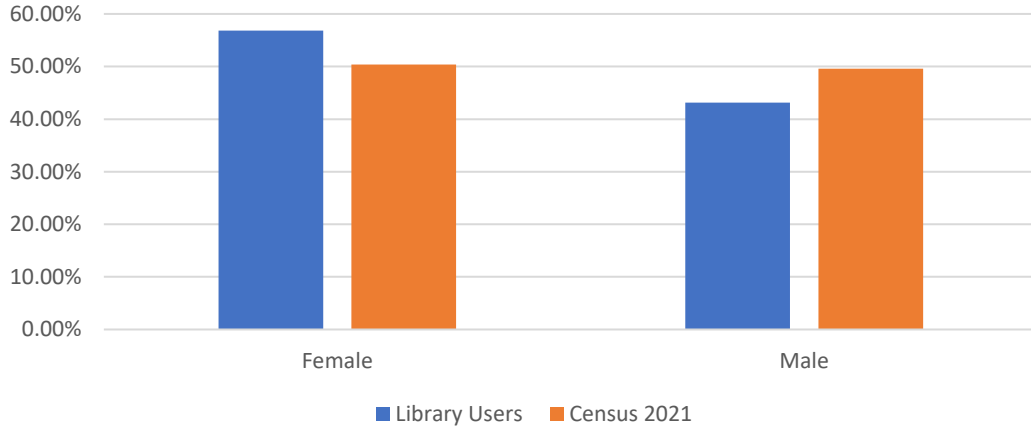


St Matthews Centre

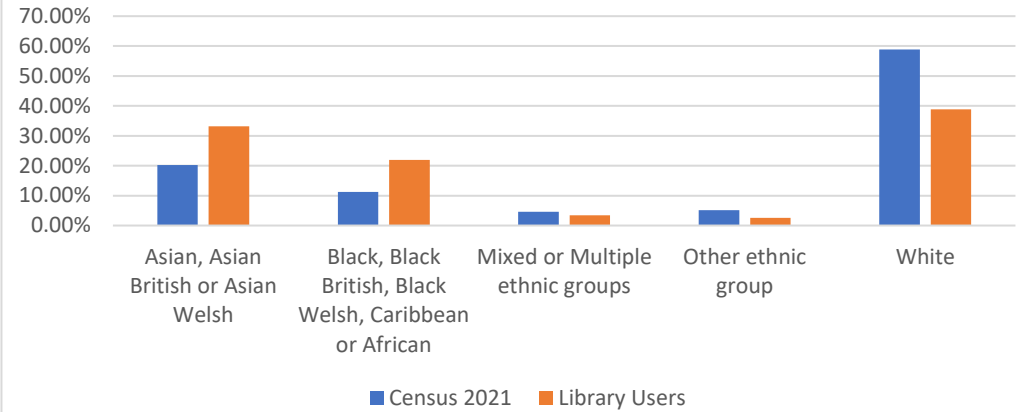


Westcotes Library

Comparison of Gender Profiles: Westcotes Library vs. to Westcotes Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Ethnicity Profiles: Westcotes Library vs. Westcotes Ward (Census 2021)



Comparison of Age Profiles: Westcotes Library vs. to Westcotes Ward (Census 2021)

