

Questions to Communities Select Committee – 8 February 2018

Question submitted by Mr Roger Miller

In the event of Option 1 being chosen for implementation:

- a. What is the estimated cost of relocating the SPAL stock together with shelving and the rolling stack to other libraries?
- b. What is the envisaged timing for the move after a decision has been made and how long will the service be unavailable?
- c. If SPAL vacates the premises at Denbies at what point before 2021 would Surrey County Council cease to make payments under the lease

Response

Many thanks for your question, as it relates to operational specifics regarding Option 1 contained within the report, the Communities Select Committee has asked the service to respond to the questions which you have raised and has received the following response:

- a. "Costs from Surrey County Council's supplier have been received. The estimated costs of moving the total stock and shelving and relocating the rolling stack for music are £15,000.
- b. The drama collection could move in April and the service would be unavailable for one week. Space freed up by the move of the drama stock would facilitate an easier and shorter relocation time for the music collection which could move shortly after.

Users of the music collection would be given as much advance warning as possible (probably eight weeks) and encouraged to order and collect sets as far in advance as possible. For those who could not collect items from SPAL in the run up period as usual, items could be collected from local libraries. Given the volume of stock involved and the need to relocate the rolling stack it is expected the service would be unavailable for one month. Library staff have extensive and up to date experience of relocating libraries, with a good track record of minimising disruption for users.

- c. The lease at Denbies is held by Surrey County Council until 27 April 2021 so payments under the lease would continue until then."

Question submitted by Mr Roger Miller

The biographies, histories and other books about music, theatre, cinema and other performing arts constitute a valuable and under promoted collection. Their value is in part that they are held together. What considerations led to the suggestion that the books should be dispersed between libraries? Were other options were considered and, if so, why were they rejected?

Response

Many thanks for your question, as it relates to operational specifics regarding option 1 contained within the report, the Communities Select Committee has asked the service to respond to the questions which you have raised and has received the following response:

“The biographies, histories and other books about Performing Arts are on a par with books held in stock on these subjects at our main libraries where they attract higher levels of use than those at SPAL and are more likely to attract a wider audience already using this area of stock.

In order to increase levels of use it was decided to include them in the general stock rather than move them with the sets material. They are on the County catalogue so can be made available at any library. The Nottingham Performing Arts Library service (NPALS) takes the same approach, with its set materials held separately from its general stock which as proposed in Surrey, is held in its main libraries.”

Rachael I. Lake
Chairman – Communities Select Committee
8 February 2018