

Item 10

To: All Persons on the Distribution List of Economy, Culture and Tourism Panel

20th July 2026

Dear Councillor

Economy, Culture Tourism Scrutiny Panel – 23rd July 2026

Please find attached the following item marked 'copy to follow' for the above meeting:

- Item 10 3-month Review for Grimsby Library location.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Joanne Paterson
Scrutiny and Committee Advisor
for Sharon Wroot, Chief Executive

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Temporary Library 3-month review 23.07.26: Economy, Culture and Tourism Scrutiny Panel

Background:

The decision to establish a temporary library offer in Grimsby Town Centre during the period of closure of Grimsby Central Library included a review of the arrangements every 3-months.

The temporary library opened in a unit on Baxtergate in Freshney Place on Tuesday 4th November 2025 and forms part of North East Lincolnshire Council wider library service provision across the borough. This briefing note is to update scrutiny panel members on the 6-month period of the temporary library being open and share the headline service data.

The panel should note that on 15 July 2026 Cabinet agreed in principle with the scrutiny recommendation from the library services select committee “That due to the lengthy period of time before a permanent facility can be in operation, NELC identifies potential alternative ‘medium-term’ central locations that will bridge the gap between a temporary ‘pop-up’ library and Grimsby Central Library being brought back into operation. *Whilst work can commence to identify potential alternatives, subject to Cabinet approval, any proposal would be subject to a business case at the appropriate time*”.

For further information link to Cabinet report: [006.-Library-Service-Select-Committee-Cabinet-Report-15.07.26-1.pdf](#)

Temporary pop-up Library:

Grimsby Library is a pop-up temporary library in the heart of Freshney Place. It is home to a variety of resources, where customers can borrow books, use the public PCs, access photocopying/printing services, seek advice on public services and information, and attend one of the activity groups. For more details on the service offer and facilities please see: [Grimsby Library - Lincs Inspire](#)

November-25 to April-26 service period:

Headline service information for the temporary library is included across the points below and Appendix 1 includes library service branch usage data for the period including year-on-year data for comparison:

- In the six-month period the temporary library had 16,769 customer visits, with 8,479 reading materials being issued, usage at other library branch service locations such as Cleethorpes has increased for the period with customers utilising alternative branches to Grimsby. For comparison, in the period of November-24 to March-25 Grimsby Central Library had 19,492 customer visits,

with 22,206 reading materials issued. It should be noted that service data for April-25 for Grimsby Central Library is not included due to the ongoing closure since 28 March 2025.

- As anticipated, there has been a material drop off in library service visits and issues when looking at the temporary pop-up library usage to previous usage at Grimsby Central Library. However, to provide context the footprint of the temporary library at mall level is 1,494 sq. ft. when compared to the library service area for Grimsby Central Library across 3 floor areas (basement, ground, mezzanine) totalling 19,644 sq. ft.
- When comparing like-for-like periods, overall service data has observed a drop off, with usage for branch locations in the period of between November-25 to March-26 at 51,667 for customer visits, with 55,859 reading materials being issued. For comparison, in the previous year from November-24 to March-25 usage was at 58,161 for customer visits, with 67,361 reading materials being issued. Therefore, overall service usage has seen a more gradual drop for the period when considering that the main central library branch is closed with some assumed customer displacement to alternative locations and service provision.
- There is general variation in usage that can be seen year-on-year with a small drop off observed in visitor numbers at Immingham and Waltham. However, the number of issues of reading materials have increased slightly at these locations for the period.

Activity planned for next period:

- Public access to local history section on an appointment basis is scheduled to be available from W/C 20 July 2026.
- To progress work to explore potential alternative 'medium-term' central locations that will bridge the gap between a temporary 'pop-up' library and Grimsby Central Library being brought back into operation. This work will identify potential alternatives and more detail on the implications for consideration.
- Continue to monitor existing temporary library operation.

Contact Officer:

Nick Browning – Head of Culture, Heritage, Leisure & Tourism

Appendix 1 - Comparison Year on Year - Branch Service Locations**November 2025 to March 2026 - Branch Service Locations**

Freshney Place Library	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	3,285	1,127	312	193	67	197	4,565
December	2,321	1,105	255	106	26	184	5,242
January	2,802	1,698	398	148	57	236	8,968
February	2,792	1,418	551	219	47	247	6,856
March	2,603	1,580	494	266	48	259	7,196
Total	13,803	6,928	2,010	932	245	1,123	32,827

Cleethorpes	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	3273	4946	735	222	54	493	14138
December	2348	3557	671	298	34	367	9596
January	3210	4879	1315	339	50	491	14377
February	3413	5326	1089	314	64	411	12527
March	3105	4538	1117	249	58	426	11925
Total	15,349	23,246	4,927	1,422	260	2,188	62,563

Immingham	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	1374	2210	197	30	18	73	1981
December	1361	1760	68	15	11	57	1525
January	1825	2634	104	34	34	64	1866
February	1389	2726	163	55	36	59	1704
March	1426	2412	108	28	20	74	2422
Total	7,375	11,742	640	162	119	327	9,498

Waltham	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	3194	2964	231	144	25	65	1543
December	2360	2524	394	359	16	52	2163
January	3248	3317	595	529	41	65	2236
February	3270	2726	660	597	33	61	2476
March	3068	2412	1089	908	38	70	2879
Total	15,140	13,943	2,969	2,537	153	313	11,297

Grand Total branch locations **51,667** **55,859** **10,546** **5,053** **777** **3,951** **116,185**

November 2024 to March 2025 - Branch Service Locations

Grimsby Central Library	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	4,311	4,488	944	309	101	619	16,744
December	2,756	3,824	616	296	40	420	10,637
January	4,668	5,187	1,373	558	125	635	20,006
February	4,238	4,127	1,050	366	99	593	21,835
March	3,519	4,580	893	340	93	562	18,380
Total	19,492	22,206	4,876	1,869	458	2,829	87,602

Cleethorpes	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	2,953	4,028	374	162	45	297	8,948
December	2,101	3,478	357	117	31	281	8,496
January	2,955	4,415	670	269	51	428	15,289
February	3,126	4,123	640	265	58	457	16,268
March	3,684	4,573	961	303	58	536	17,694
Total	14,819	20,617	3,002	1,116	243	1,999	66,695

Immingham	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	2,049	2,252	77	37	33	90	1,455
December	1,342	1,996	28	9	12	41	875
January	1,610	2,474	54	23	28	55	1,310
February	1,761	2,118	31	9	33	56	1,506
March	1,610	2,257	72	37	33	56	1,873
Total	8,371	11,097	262	115	139	298	7,019

Waltham	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	2,883	2,694	91	59	30	39	1,313
December	2,221	2,232	43	25	9	29	583
January	3,508	3,052	299	130	34	43	1,239
February	2,955	2,810	86	43	25	50	1,500
March	3,912	2,653	108	62	29	38	1,534
Total	15,479	13,441	627	319	127	199	6,169

Grand Total branch locations **58,161** **67,361** **8,767** **3,419** **967** **5,325** **167,485**

Summary November 2025 to April 2026

Freshney Place Library	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	3,285	1,127	312	193	67	197	4,565
December	2,321	1,105	255	106	26	184	5,242
January	2,802	1,698	398	148	57	236	8,968
February	2,792	1,418	551	219	47	247	6,856
March	2,603	1,580	494	266	48	259	7,196
April	2,966	1,551	455	117	45	240	6,814
Total	16,769	8,479	2,465	1,049	290	1,363	39,641

Cleethorpes	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	3273	4946	735	222	54	493	14138
December	2348	3557	671	298	34	367	9596
January	3210	4879	1315	339	50	491	14377
February	3413	5326	1089	314	64	411	12527
March	3105	4538	1117	249	58	426	11925
April	3559	5337	1517	328	47	398	12013
Total	18,908	28,583	6,444	1,750	307	2,586	74,576

Immingham	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	1374	2210	197	30	18	73	1981
December	1361	1760	68	15	11	57	1525
January	1825	2634	104	34	34	64	1866
February	1389	2726	163	55	36	59	1704
March	1426	2412	108	28	20	74	2422
April	1726	2452	139	29	9	48	1486
Total	9,101	14,194	779	191	128	375	10,984

Waltham	Visits	Issues	Print out -Pages	Print outs - Jobs	New Members	PN Sessions	PN Time used (Mins)
November	3194	2964	231	144	25	65	1543
December	2360	2524	394	359	16	52	2163
January	3248	3317	595	529	41	65	2236
February	3270	2726	660	597	33	61	2476
March	3068	2412	1089	908	38	70	2879
April	3237	2452	744	723	28	58	2211
Total	18,377	16,395	3,713	3,260	181	371	13,508

Grand Total branch locations	63,155	67,651	13,401	6,250	906	4,695	138,709
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