

Community Ownership of Libraries

Sustainable Assets & Services

Annemarie Naylor
Director

Introductions

- Common Futures
- Our Libraries Work

Structure

Policy & Operating Context

Research & Guidance

Practice

Innovation

Discussion

POLICY & OPERATING CONTEXT

Public Libraries and Museums Act (1964)

DCMS

DCLG

**Arts
Council
England**

**Local
Library
Authorities**

**Carnegie
UK Trust**

**Society
for Chief
Librarians**

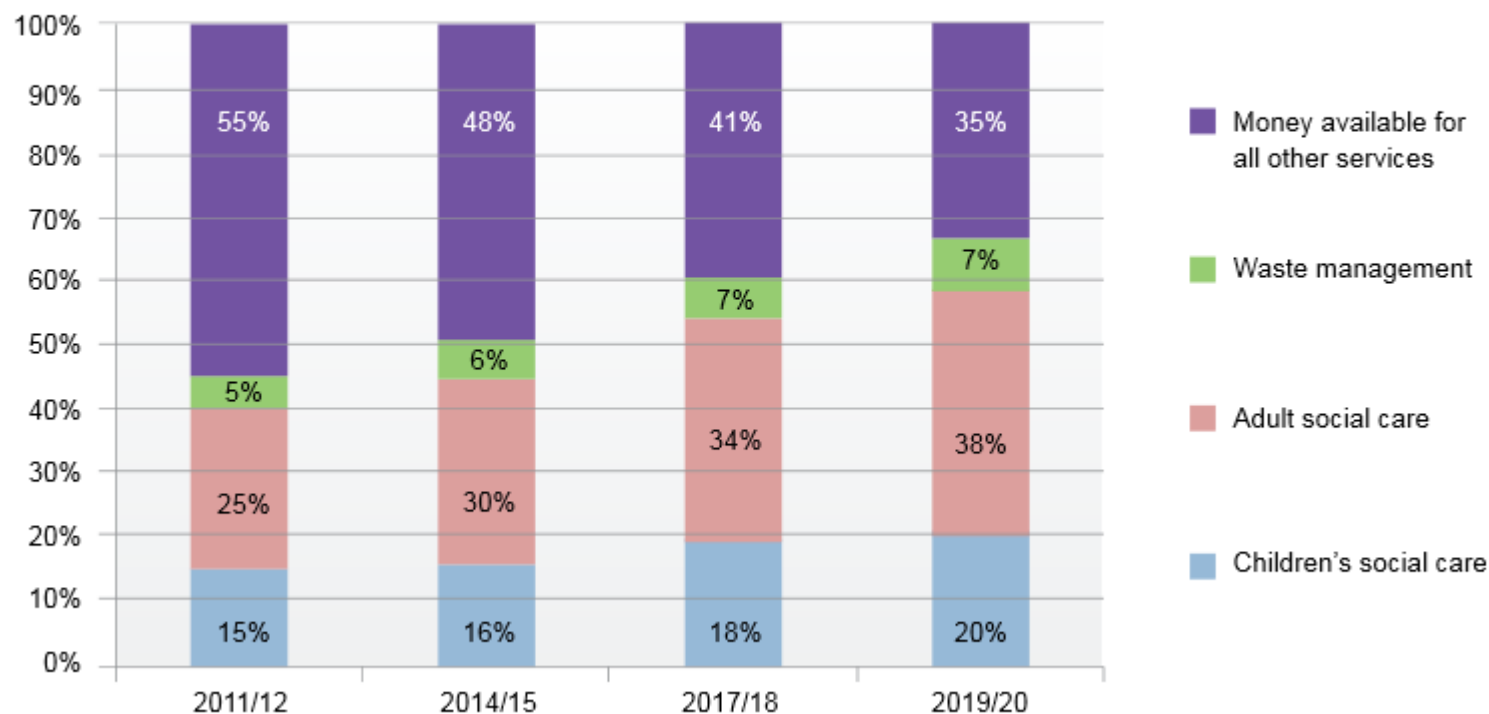
**Libraries
Taskforce**

**Chartered
Institute for
Libraries and
Information
Professionals**

- **Great Art and Culture for Everyone: 10 year strategy for Arts Council England (2010-2020)**
 - Emphasis on resilience and sustainability
 - Support for peer learning from good examples
 - Commitment to investing and researching new business models for library services
- **Envisioning the Library of the Future (2012)**
 - Place the library as the hub of the community
 - Make the most of digital technology and creative media
 - Ensure that libraries are resilient and sustainable
 - Deliver the right skills for those who work in libraries
- **The Sieghart Review (2014) & Libraries Taskforce**
- **Libraries Deliver – an Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-21:** <https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/>

Graphs of Doom & Localism...

Money available for services, 2011-2020



Future Funding Outlook for Single Tier Councils
July 2013 - LGA

RESEARCH & GUIDANCE

1. **MLA: Community Managed Libraries (2011)**
2. **Locality: Libraries Community Knowledge Hub -**
<http://libraries.communityknowledgehub.org.uk/>
3. **Locality: Community Libraries – Learning from Experience – Guiding Principles and Case Studies (2012) -** <http://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Community-Libraries-Guiding-Principles.pdf> &
<http://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Community-Libraries-10-Case-Studies.pdf>
4. **Locality: Enabling Enterprise in Libraries (2014) -** <http://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Locality-Enabling-Enterprise-in-Libraries.pdf>
5. **Locality: Income Generation for Public Libraries – Action Research, Guidance & Case Studies (2014) -** <http://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Income-Generation-for-Public-Libraries.pdf> &
<http://locality.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Income-Generation-for-Public-Libraries-May-2015.pdf>
6. **OPM: Rural library services in England: exploring recent changes and possible futures (2014) -** <http://www.opm.co.uk/publications/rural-library-services-in-england-exploring-recent-changes-and-possible-futures/>
7. **DCMS: Community Libraries – Good Practice Toolkit & Case Studies (2016) -** <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/community-libraries-good-practice-toolkit>

PRACTICE

Types: independent, community managed, community supported, commissioned (inc. trusts, mutuals)

Community Engagement/Involvement: from petitions, demonstrations, high court battles and sit-ins to planning meetings, community group formation, surveys, crowdfunding appeals, volunteering opportunities and share issues

Assets: purchase, discounted asset transfer, short-term leases and management agreements

Library Management Systems & Books

Enterprise: limited but...

Locality's Research Findings

Typology of Income Generation

- Non-Library Service Public Service Contracts
- Private Sector Service Contracts
- Direct Trading and Retail
- Charged For Services
- **New / Emergent ICT Services**



Good Practice: Income Generation



New/Emergent ICT Services

- Joint highest **potential** to facilitate income generation
- Limited **evidence** to verify its perceived value – US visitor numbers V falling e-book sales
- **Stakeholder** buy-in
- E-lending Pilots – **free** at the point of use?
- **National v local** – relationship?
- Capacity, skills, agility – **fast-moving** market
- Capital Investment – **ROI?**
- **Digital Divides** – 2-tier service?

INNOVATION

The Information Economy

- 📍 Fibre and Wireless Spectrum
- 📍 Coding, Robots and Automation
- 📍 Server Farms, 3D printers & Kickstarter
- 📍 Open Data, Big Data and Algorithms

x10 digital income generators?

1. E-Government / Assisted Digital Contracts
2. HEI Partnerships / MOOCs
3. Open Source Hardware Initiatives / Loan Schemes
4. Premium Home Delivery Services (drones)
5. Enterprise Support / Development / Joint Venturing
6. Object / Tool Library Loans
7. Music and Literature - community publishing platforms
8. Gigabit Whitespace Provision to Communities
9. Open Data Access / Re-use Support Services
10. Personal Data Awareness & Management Services

Open / Commons / Sharing

- Open Source Software / Hardware
- Open Data
- Creative Commons Licensing
- Collaborative Consumption
- Sharing Economy

common
FUTURES



common **LIBRARIES**

www.commonlibraries.cc

 @CommonLibraries



Mitch Altman STGO Maker Space

OUR BIG IDEA

Our Origins: the Common Libraries initiative flows from the drivers of change in UK library services, moves to re-imagine libraries as spaces to facilitate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) skills development through hacking and making, as well as wider changes that are fuelling efforts to commodify (or, 'commonify') knowledge in our increasingly digital and open source society

Our Mission: to develop, demonstrate and promote a contemporary rationale and viable business model for a public library, in keeping with the library ethos, to help safeguard their future.

Our Vision & Values: if public libraries are to endure, we believe they must evolve to become bastions of a 21st century knowledge commons, with an explicit commitment to help build a social knowledge economy.

We are the library...



By NasaMarshall

Prototyping: the Waiting Room – www.st-botolphs.org



Business Model

St Botolphs is a new community group named after the Patron Saint of an area in Colchester town centre. The group is made up of local residents, retailers and local organisations working together to improve their neighbourhood.

The Waiting Room is the group's first project kick started by group members Colchester School of Art and the Creative Coop. The aim is to build a Hack/Maker/Library Space in a disused bus station waiting room to provide open access to creative skills while revitalising the area and re-establishing a creative, cultural identity.

WWW.ST-BOTOLPHS.ORG



BORROW

Access specialist Maker books, instruction kits and other learning resources



BARTER

Attend free knowledge sharing events and access maker tools during our workshop open days



BUY

Purchase locally crafted products; off the shelf or in DIY kit form



BESPOKE

Commission a one-off product or request a personal one-to-one lesson



SOCIALISE

Meet like minded people and form new relationships



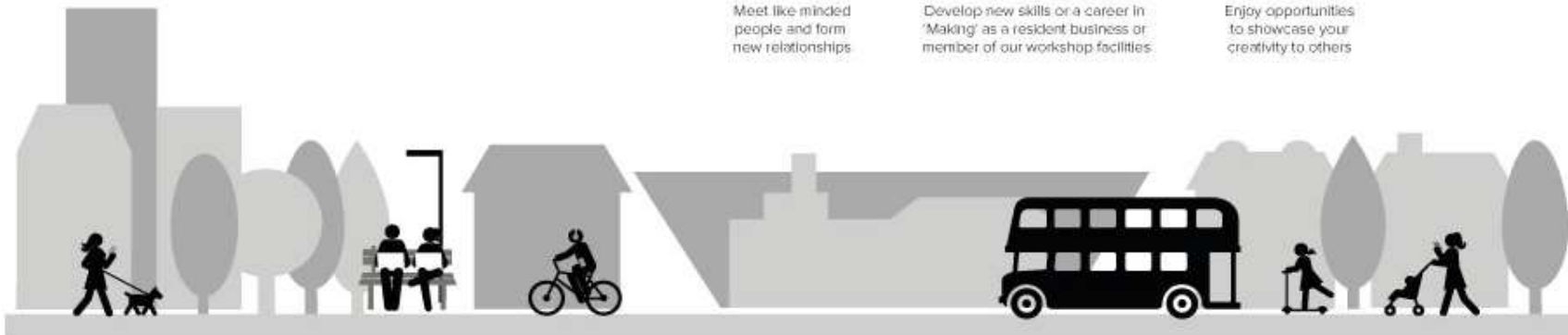
NURTURE & INCUBATE

Develop new skills or a career in 'Making' as a resident business or member of our workshop facilities



PERFORM & PRESENT

Enjoy opportunities to showcase your creativity to others



SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & RE-ESTABLISHING A CREATIVE, CULTURAL IDENTITY



Colchester School of Art



Lendmyhands
Supported using public funding for
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



A flavour of what those activities currently look like in reality...

MAKER WEDNESDAYS

Weekly knowledge exchange events for local people to share or learn a craft and have free access to the workshop facilities.
Alex Davis
alex@creative.coop

MAKER LIBRARY

A small tourable trailer containing shelves of books, locally made 'how-to' kits and other resources to reference and borrow.
Hannah Stageman
hannah@hannahstageman.com

HAZEL GALLERY SHOP

An incubated retail business selling products made by local Makers.
Lucy Hook-Child
lucy@hazalgallery.co.uk

KIOSK 2

KITCHEN

An incubated restaurant business run by an local up-and-coming chef serving British Tapas and pop-up evening meals.
Charlie Stocker
charlies@charliestocker.com

YOUTH CLUB

Once a week the Waiting Room and its facilities are taken over by young people.
Andy Wirmill
andy@camand.co.uk

VOICES OF THE QUARTER

Business Model (cont.)

- 1) **Space for community hire** – our prototype is offered at different rates, including for free in many instances, to deliver particular outcomes and generate income. Free ‘hire’ includes Maker Wednesdays, when individual creatives are encouraged to lead workshops (free of charge) and, in effect, barter their knowledge and know-how on a ‘loss leader’ basis – i.e. to promote their skills and any MakerKits / commissions they might wish to offer for sale;
- 2) **Bar/café/restaurant** – our prototype tested different approaches, including profit-share arrangements, rented access and joint venturing, to complement particular activities, share responsibilities for staffing the building during the day & directly support entrepreneurs starting out
- 3) **Membership based hack/maker workshop facilities** – our prototype has recently introduced low-cost resident and flexible membership opportunities, drawing upon learning from established hack/makerspaces, for example the London Hackspace.
- 4) **Joint venturing with creative start-ups** – our prototype has nurtured start-ups that range from an art gallery to a micro social history archive and photography business, in addition to its close working relationship with those responsible for developing its hack/maker workshop scheme, offering discounted space hire/profit-share arrangements and practical support for mutual benefit.
- 5) **Micro-enterprise development with creative users** - MakerBoxes can be regarded as give-get contributions to the project library – that is, as ‘loss leading’ promotional platforms for individual creatives and our prototype - until such time as MakerKits are produced and translate into sales on a profit-share basis for both parties OR the creative solicits a bespoke commission: see, Generating an Income from your Library-Hack-Makerspace: <http://tinyurl.com/og2sffm> & Developing your Give-Get Library – Creating and Costing your MakerKits: <http://tinyurl.com/q9ruo9t>





National Library Science Experiment:
<http://commonlibraries.cc/our-national-library-science-experiment-concludes/>





common**FUTURES**

community ownership explorers, civic engineers and unconsultants

annemarie@commonfutures.eu

www.commonfutures.eu



@commonfutrs / @commonlibraries