

## 13.4 Independent libraries

In line with the priority tool, it is proposed the following libraries may become independent libraries:

(in alphabetical order)

Broomhill

Ecclesfield

Frecheville

Gleadless

Greenhill

Jordanthorpe

Stannington

Totley

Upperthorpe

Walkley

(plus Tinsley after the rental agreement expires in 2016)

In the report of the Executive Director 25th September 2013, it was outlined that libraries vulnerable to closure, which do not become community co-delivered libraries, may become independent libraries without financial support from the Council. However, a range of non-financial support, advice and assistance was always proposed for the formational stages though this would not be ongoing.

Since the launch of the consultation the Council has encouraged community groups and organisations to come forward and register an interest in running their community library. Interest has been strong and every library which is vulnerable to closure has a group/organisation willing to run it.

Guidelines were produced for individuals, groups and organisations who want to run, or help to run a library service in Sheffield. As listed in section 11.1 library groups took advantage of a range of information and support sessions organised by the Council, including workshops and a visit to independent libraries in Wakefield.

The guidelines included a range of information and advice, including the criteria for initial and full business plans (see appendix G). The list below outlines the criteria for the initial business plans which had a submission deadline of 24th January 2014.

- (1) A volunteer register
- (2) Managing and co-ordinating volunteers
- (3) Working with partners
- (4) Governance arrangements
- (5) Ideas
- (6) Financial plan

11 groups/organisations have submitted an approved initial business plan and will be invited to develop a full business plan.

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