

Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

**EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
CABINET**

9 January 2001

15 January 2001

REVIEW OF LEICESTER CITY LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES 2000

Report of the Director of Arts and Leisure

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks to determine the views of Scrutiny Committee before Cabinet's consideration of the Review. After Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet Members are asked to consider the recommendations contained in the Review of Leicester City Libraries and Information Services 2000.

2 Summary

The 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act requires local authorities to "provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons desiring to make use thereof"

Government has indicated the importance they attach to the public library service in delivering a number of their key aims in particular raising educational standards, increasing participation in lifelong learning, reducing social exclusion and improving participation in the democratic process.

In addition a set of draft standards for public libraries was published by the DCMS in Spring 2000. The Public Library standards define for the first time what "a comprehensive and efficient library service" will entail and will give library users a clear idea of the range and quality of service they can expect from a local authority.

The Libraries Review focuses on the ways in which library services in Leicester will change over the coming years, to increase library use, meet the Library Standards and satisfy the library needs of the people of Leicester City within the challenging agenda set for public libraries by Government.

The recommendations and priorities identified by this Review will be fed into the process of developing the Cultural Strategy in order that priorities for Library Services can be considered alongside priorities for all other services.

There are 100 recommendations within the report as a result of the Review, many of which are internal Libraries Management issues which will be implemented under the Director's delegated powers in consultation with the Cabinet Lead.

The Financial and Legal implications section has categorised the recommendations for Members consideration as follows:

- i. Efficiency initiatives producing savings which it is proposed be utilised to contribute to the Department's revenue budget strategy.
- ii. Efficiency initiatives which require the redirection of resources from one budget head to another which could be considered as savings options but are proposed be utilised to improve service delivery.
- iii. Efficiency initiatives to improve service delivery which could be implemented through more effective use of existing resources.
- iv. Efficiency initiatives/service improvements which require the identification of new resources which it is proposed be built into the Arts & Leisure Department's three year budget strategy commencing 2002/03.

As a fundamental review of the service has been undertaken, it has been proposed that Libraries Best Value review be brought forward to year 2.

3 Recommendations

Scrutiny Committee

- a To consider the following recommendations prior to consideration by the Cabinet

Cabinet

Subject to considering the views of the Scrutiny Committee:-

- a Approve category (1) recommendations be utilised as a contribution to the Department's revenue budget strategy for 2001/02
- b Approve categories (ii) and (iii) recommendations for the redirection of resources and more effective use of existing resources to implement service delivery initiatives as detailed in the report, under the Director's delegated powers in consultation with the Cabinet Lead
- c Approve category (iv) recommendations to be built into the Arts & Leisure Department's 3 year budget strategy as described in the report, submitting future details each year within the Department's proposed revenue budget strategies 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05.

4 Financial and Legal implications

The Libraries Review was commissioned by the City Council at its meeting in June of this year in response to the withdrawal of savings proposals totalling £342,000 intended to be implemented within the current financial year. The former Arts & Leisure Committee agreed at its meeting, also in June of this year, that the Review take into account the requirements of the draft Library Standards and the need for any action to improve services to meet these.

In undertaking a full review of the service a number of efficiencies and improvements have been identified and these can be most effectively categorised for consideration, as indicated above and below.

These are detailed as follows:

- i. Efficiency initiatives producing savings which it is proposed be utilised to contribute to the Department's revenue budget strategy

Recommendation 67: Move the Goldsmith Collection in full from its current location to Central Lending library. This will require major changes to the layout of Central Lending library resulting in better use of space. Rent and building cost savings of £50,000 in 2001/02 and £120,000 in 2002/03.

- ii. Efficiency initiatives, which require the redirection of resources from one budget head to another which could be considered as savings options but are proposed be utilised to improve service delivery.

Recommendation 5: To extend opening hours in order that all libraries will open on Saturday afternoons using Saturday assistants. £30,000 redirection of savings made as a result of the termination of Joint Bibliographic Services arrangements with the County

Recommendation 7: To target libraries not receiving NOF funded Out Of Schools Learning support and provide additional staffing support on at least two afternoons a week to provide after school opportunities for homework and recreational reading. Libraries involved: St Matthews, Thurnby Lodge, Humberstone, Netherhall, Stocking Farm, Aylestone. £6,000 Indicative costs dependent upon redirection of staff resources as part of proposed staffing review

Recommendation 26: To establish a People's Network Librarian. Within existing staffing budget, dependent upon redirection of resources as a result of new staffing structure. £22,000 - £25,000

Recommendation 27: To establish a People's Network Technician. Within existing staffing budget, dependent upon redirection of resources as a result of new staffing structure - £18,000 - £25,000

Recommendation 39: Develop a city-wide Books for Babies Basics project to 4000 babies a year. Within existing budget. A part redirection of £2,000 from Marketing.

These recommendations produce a total figure of £88,000 for redirection which it is proposed be utilised by implementing the initiatives as described to improve the delivery of services.

- iii. Efficiency initiatives to improve service delivery, which would be implemented through more effective use of existing resources.

Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11: see detailed report Section 6

Recommendations 17-25: see detailed report Section 7.6

Recommendations 28*, 29-35: see detailed report Section 8

<u>Recommendations 36 & 37:</u>	see detailed report Section 9
<u>Recommendations 38 & 44:</u>	see detailed report Section 10.3
<u>Recommendations 45-49:</u>	see detailed report Section 10.4
<u>Recommendations 50-55:</u>	see detailed report Section 10.6
<u>Recommendation 56:</u>	see detailed report Section 11.5
<u>Recommendations 57, 59-61:</u>	see detailed report Section 11.6
<u>Recommendations 62, 64-65:</u>	see detailed report Section 11.7
<u>Recommendation 66:</u>	see detailed report Section 11.8
<u>Recommendations 68-94, 95, 96:</u>	see detailed report Section 12
<u>Recommendations: 97, 98, 99, 100:</u>	see detailed report Section 13

*Recommendation 28 is dependent on a bid to the City Council's Capital Programme.

- iv. Efficiency initiatives/service improvements which require the identification of new resources which it is proposed be built into the Arts & Leisure Department's three year budget strategy commencing 2002/03.

Recommendation 1: To maintain current network of 21 community libraries across the city. To implement a three year strategy and action plan to improve the quality of services and stock and to increase membership and use. Outcomes to reviewed in 2003-2004. This recommendation has no specific financial implications as these are detailed as appropriate against each recommendation.

Recommendation 9: DDA access improvement to a number of libraries. Total cost £89,000 which comprises £30,000 in 2002/03, £40,000 in 2003/04 and £19,000 in 2004/05.

Recommendation 12: Examine alternative building options for Central libraries, Stocking Farm and St Matthews libraries in 2001/02. Aylestone, Fosse, Humberstone, Netherhall and Thurnby Lodge libraries to be reviewed in 2003 with any identified replacements programmed for 2004/05. These developments will require feasibility studies to determine capital and revenue implications.

Recommendation 13: Improve opening hours of Central libraries to meet Library Standards. £10,000 in 2003/04.

Recommendation 14: Pilot project for Sunday opening at 3 library sites. £16,500 in 2002/03

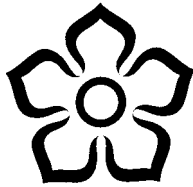
Recommendation 15: Consider Sunday opening Hamilton new Library. £5,500 in 2004/05.

Recommendation 16: Increase bookfund to meet Library Standard by 2004. £48,000 in 2003/04.

Recommendation 58: Investigate opportunities for replacement of the leased Library Minibus with a vehicle fit for purpose. £6,000 in 2002/03

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Report

The Review of Leicester City Libraries and Information Services is a timely one - nationally the profile of public libraries and Government support for public libraries has never been higher , and locally people value and protect their local libraries.

The report brings together customer, management, professional and staff views in order to inform the strategic, management and action plans for the operational delivery of the service over the next three years.

The Report covers the following issues:

- Comparative statistics for Leicester City Libraries
- Library Standards
- Income Generation
- Public Consultation
- Access
- Books and Reading
- ICT
- Lifelong Learning
- Services for Children and Young People
- Services to Older People
- Central Libraries

Managing Diversity and Delivering Equality

A series of recommendations follows each heading.

FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

1 Financial Implications

The review is an integrated strategy. It determines new roles and functions for staff within a revised staffing structure, which will be designed to deliver the recommendations in the report. If particular recommendations are isolated for non-progression then a reconsideration of the whole approach will be needed. The Libraries Review has been mostly developed within the existing budget although some aspects of the Review depend on external sources of funding. Some of these, such as the implementation of the People's Network, are guaranteed monies on an allocation rather than a competitive bidding process. Others such as the replacement of the TALIS system, are dependent on corporate funding and a bid will be made to the Council's capital programme. The implementation of the Library Standards by 2004 may also have financial implications resulting in an increase in bookfund to meet the minimum level specified by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

2 Legal Implications

None for purposes of this report.

3 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	PARAGRAPH REFERENCES WITHIN SUPPORTING PAPERS
Equal Opportunities	YES	6.1, 6.2, 6.10, 6.11, 7.2, 7.5, 7.6, 8.1, 8.4, 8.6, 8.7, 9.2, 10.4.4, 10.4.6, 11.3, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7.2, 11.7.3, 11.7.4, 11.8, 12.4.6, 12.4.10, 13.2, 13.4, 13.7, 13.8
Policy	NO	
Sustainable and Environmental	NO	6.11
Crime and Disorder	NO	
Human Rights Act	NO	

4 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964
Annual Library Plan 1999-2000
Draft Library Standards
Open for All: Social Inclusion in Public Libraries

5 Consultations

Libraries staff consultation June- July 2000

Public consultation September 2000