



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED: ROWLEY FIELDS  
NORTH BRAUNSTONE**

**CABINET**

**21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2001**

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**SOUTH BRAUNSTONE NEIGHBOURHOOD LIBRARY  
AND RESOURCE CENTRE**

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**Report of the Director of Arts and Leisure**

**1 Purpose of Report**

The Report informs Cabinet of the proposal to develop a new Library and Resource Centre in Braunstone, to authorise the establishment of the Project Team and to bring forward further reports as the details are developed.

**2 Summary**

2.1 For some time, officers in Arts and Leisure have been in dialogue with the Directors and staff of Braunstone Community Association to discuss cultural provision in Braunstone. This has included a shared vision for a '21<sup>st</sup> Century Library' to replace the existing Library on Braunstone Avenue. We have a shared commitment to develop the project and services to maximise opportunities for residents, consistent with the outcomes of the New Deal programme. We are aiming for the best quality in design, energy efficiency, access and service – the very best for Braunstone.

The proposal also presents an opportunity to demonstrate joined up working within the Council, with other agencies and with residents from the outset.

2.2 The proposal involves building a new library and resource centre on the site of the current Community Centre, either as an extension to the existing facility or demolishing the building and developing a totally new build. The facilities would include library, 20 place computer suite, community spaces, café, play area. The details will emerge through the consultation. Choice of extension or total new build will be covered during the options appraisal and presented to the Braunstone Community Association for their decision.

2.3 The new Library and Resource Centre would be the property of the City Council and involve existing revenue resources from Libraries, Community Education and potentially could form a base for other related agencies to provide a range of services. This is to ensure sustainability. However resident 'ownership' in terms of how services are developed and delivered is an essential ongoing commitment.

- 2.4 The Project will be managed by the City Council, Arts and Leisure Department. A Project Team will be established, including officers from all relevant departments and Directors and staff from Braunstone Community Association. The Assistant Director, Arts, Libraries and Museums will be Project Director, and the Head of Libraries and Information Services, the Project Manager.
- 2.5 The Braunstone Community Association are keen to work quickly with the Council in developing this scheme.

### **3 Recommendations**

Cabinet:-

1. Agree the broad approach and authorise detailed scheme development.
2. Agree the establishment of a Project Team, including Directors from the Braunstone Community Association, to develop and manage the project.
3. Note that further reports will be brought forward as the details are developed.

### **4 Financial & Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Braunstone Community Association have allocated £1million in their Year 2 Delivery Plan for this project. However, once more detailed work has been undertaken, should the project cost more, then this could be made available. There will be no capital costs to the City Council.

The Project, will, however, seek to attract funds from other sources for aspects of the work, such as New Opportunities Fund for the ICT suite.

- 4.2 Revenue will be met within existing resources and will include a joined up approach particularly with Education, but also with other partners.
- 4.3 The Project will be required to meet all financial regulations and legal requirements.

### **5 Consultations**

Director of Environment & Development and Commercial Services  
Director of Education  
Assistant Head of Legal Services  
Corporate Property Officer  
Arts and Leisure Head of Finance

### **6 Report Author**

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