



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET **6 July 2010**

Report of the Strategic Director of
Neighbourhoods

ITEM 11

CHADDESSEN LIBRARY

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report identifies the location for a new Chaddesden Library to replace the current building that is now approaching the end of its useful life. It also proposes that the library be developed with a range of special features appropriate to the chosen location. These features will reflect the Council's commitment to protecting the environment and to reducing the effects of climate change in Derby.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To locate the new library in Chaddesden Park, approximately 50 metres south-east of the current building. The proposed site is on the grassed area adjacent to where the path to the current library meets the path to the Chaddesden Park café.
- 2.2 To design the library as an exemplar of low-carbon construction and technology, including within it a range of features that reflect the Council's commitment to protecting the environment and reducing the effects of climate change in Derby.
- 2.3 To provide exhibitions, displays and learning facilities within the library that support the study and appreciation of Chaddesden Park's natural heritage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The current timber framed (Vic Hallam) library building has a limited life expectancy. A survey conducted by the Council's structural engineers in January 2008 said that the building will not survive beyond 2015, and will need frequent remedial intervention to last that long.
- 3.2 Cabinet agreed on 22 April 2008 to add to the capital programme £1.2 million for a new Chaddesden Library, funded from a LAGBI payment. On 22 October 2008 Cabinet agreed to supplement this sum with a further £98,000 of unsupported borrowing.

- 3.3 Early in 2009 outline plans were prepared to build the new library on the Nottingham Road edge of Chaddesden Park, several hundred metres from the current building. However a public consultation exercise carried out that September identified significant levels of opposition, and this location is therefore no longer considered an acceptable option on grounds of its environmental impact.
- 3.4 Although the preferred location for a new library is on Nottingham Road, no suitable sites are currently available and as far as can be ascertained there is no prospect of this situation changing in the near future. It has therefore been necessary to look for other possible sites further away from the District Centre.
- 3.5 The residents' survey showed that the current library site is popular with many existing library users. This suggests that a site within Chaddesden Park would receive considerable local support. Accordingly, a site has been identified around 50 metres south-east of the current building that could accommodate a new library of the size envisaged. The site chosen is on the grassed area adjacent to where the path to the current library meets the path to the Chaddesden Park café.
- 3.6 The site proposed has several advantages over the current library –
- It will enable us to construct a larger building without the possibility of the foundations damaging the root systems of several mature trees.
 - Not being surrounded by trees, it will be more visible and therefore less likely to suffer from anti-social behaviour.
 - It will enable us to continue to provide a library service from the current library while construction of the new one is underway.
- 3.7 Chaddesden Park is an important and much loved natural oasis in Derby's urban landscape. The library's design will respect the environment in which it is located. Building a library here also provides an opportunity to incorporate a range of special features reflecting the Council's commitment to reducing the effects of climate change in Derby. The intention is that the library will be an exemplar of low-carbon construction and technology as well as providing other environmental benefits which improve the ecology of the area such as bird nest boxes and bat boxes.
- 3.8 A library in this location could also be a perfect base from which to study and appreciate Chaddesden Park's natural heritage. It is therefore proposed that as well as the more traditional features of a public library the building will play host to exhibitions, displays and learning facilities that interpret and celebrate the park's natural features.
- 3.9 When the new library has opened the current one will be demolished and restored as park land.

For more information contact:	David Potton 01332 641719 e-mail david.potton@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The costs of developing the building as a low carbon exemplar will be reviewed as the design progresses. A 'whole life costs' approach will be taken to ensure that the operating costs as well as the initial capital costs are considered. If it is apparent that the energy saving measures will result in additional unfunded costs a further report will be brought for consideration.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising directly from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The new library will be fully accessible for disabled people

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposals support in particular the following corporate objectives
- To improve the range and quality of Derby's cultural and leisure opportunities and facilities
 - To celebrate diversity and ensure everyone has the opportunity to take part in cultural and leisure opportunities
 - To contribute to reducing the effects of climate change in Derby
 - To deliver value for money across all services