



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
22 February 2005

Report of the Director of Development and Cultural Services

Central Library and Joint Services Centre PFI Revised Brief

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To include in the proposed Expression of Interest a strong element designed to review and enhance the network of Neighbourhood Libraries.
- 1.2 All Neighbourhood Libraries designed now should have included in the brief the functions of a local joint services centre.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Our original plan was to bid for the complete replacement of the Central Library, but it is becoming clear that this course of action would pose affordability problems.
- 2.2 Advice from our specialist consultants is that our bid has much greater chance of success with a Neighbourhood component within it.
- 2.3 Members have acknowledged that the current network of Neighbourhood Libraries is inadequate to meet the needs of the 21st Century.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Cabinet received a report on 18 January 2005 outlining a PFI Bid for a replacement Central Library and Joint Services Centre.
- 3.2 Since that time further work has been carried out on sites for the Central Library which could be very closely associated with the new council accommodation. The cost of acquiring such sites appears to be out of reach now.
- 3.3 We have appointed specialist consultants to help with the researching and writing of the PFI Bid. They are advising that the Bid would be much stronger if we included within it a component which strengthened the public information facilities out in Derby's neighbourhoods.
- 3.4 Experimentation at Sinfin Library and the remarkable success of the Alvaston Library and Learning Centre have shown us that Public Libraries can fulfil an important role as centres for information in the community. They also operate well as bases for joint working with other public authorities and agencies.

- 3.5 Our network of Neighbourhood Libraries is inadequate in size, coverage and condition.
- 3.6 As part of a statutory service with contact points throughout the city, public libraries offer a sustainable outlet for providing local information and advice services for the public.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 We are advised by our specialist consultants that to continue with a PFI Bid focused solely on the Central Library and Joint Services Centre would be less likely to succeed.
- 4.2 The council has the option of proceeding or not proceeding with a full scale PFI Bid once the feedback has been received on this first stage in June 2005.

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Background papers: None
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The costings for new Neighbourhood Libraries will be based on the cost of Alvaston Library and Learning Centre at £1.2m. Options are being examined now on the possible refurbishment and extension of the Central Library in its current site. The original estimate of the cost of a new Central Library was £14m. It is safe to assume that a refurbishment option with an extension would cost no more than half of that.

PFI Bid criteria state that the overall project must have a capital cost of at least £20m to justify the economies of scale that can be achieved. The close association of this proposal with the accommodation strategy will ensure that this minimum will be met.

Revenue implications of the proposals will be worked out as part of the consultants' work programme and reported back to Cabinet. The affordability of our proposal will be a crucial criterion in deciding whether to pursue the project.

Legal

- 2.1 None at this stage.

Personnel

- 3.1 None at this stage.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 None at this stage.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal comes under the Council's Objective of **integrated, cost effective services**.

5.2 The proposal furthers the priorities of

- **promoting the city as a major force for industry, commerce, culture and tourism**
- **developing the management of the city and district centres to improve their attractiveness and viability**
- **enhancing our community leadership role through partnership working and listening to, and communicating with, the public**
- **improving customer service through a customer-focused culture, using new technology and investing in our buildings.**