



Development of Library Services in Derwent

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That Cabinet approves the arrangements negotiated by the Head of Library Services for the establishment of a small-scale public library service point in Derwent ward, within the proposed Healthy Living Centre.
- 1.2 Cabinet acknowledge the commitment to ongoing revenue costs on a tapering arrangement from 2007/08 onward.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The number and location of Derby's library buildings severely restrict public access to library services in the City. This fundamental weakness undermines our efforts to improve scores against the national Public Library Standards.
- 2.2 There is currently no static library within Derwent ward. However, there is a longstanding local resentment that Wollaton Road Library, which was situated on the edge of the ward, was closed down by the County Council in the early 1990s when the building was condemned as unsafe. Local demand for a library presence in the area continues to be articulated through the Derwent Library Development Panel.
- 2.3 The arrangements negotiated by the Head of Library Services offer a highly cost-effective means of securing a permanent library presence in Derwent ward.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In August 2003, the Head of Library Services initiated negotiations with Derwent New Deal for Communities and the Greater Derby Primary Care Trust on setting up a small-scale public library service point in Derwent ward, within the proposed Healthy Living Centre.
- 3.2 Simultaneously, meetings were held with members of the Derwent Library Development Panel, to ensure that the proposal reflected the needs and aspirations of the local community.
- 3.3 Negotiations were concluded in November 2003 when funding applications were submitted to, and approved by, Derwent New Deal for Communities. These cover set-up costs of a new library, as well a contribution to running costs until March 2009.

- 3.4 The proposal is to create a library about 60 square metres in size, including around 10 square metres for administrative and support activities, on the ground floor of the “Revive” Healthy Living Centre. Costings have been developed on the assumption that the library will be open for approximately 34 hours each week. The library will have a shelf stock of around 3,900 books and other items for loan, and three computers for public use.
- 3.5 Introduction of this library facility will enable us to redeploy some of the Mobile Library time currently devoted to Derwent.
- 3.6 Construction costs of the new library will be absorbed as part of the Healthy Living Centre’s capital fundraising. This fundraising effort is still under way. If it is completed successfully and by the target date, the Healthy Living Centre could be handed over by the end of 2005. The library would then open early in 2006.
- 3.7 Derwent New Deal for Communities has agreed to meet the full costs of equipping, stocking and setting up the new library. It has also agreed to fund the appointment of a Library Development Worker to be based in the Derwent area from July 2004 to March 2006. This person would manage the project, working closely with partners and residents to promote and encourage reading, literacy and library use.
- 3.8 Derwent New Deal for Communities has also agreed to contribute to the running costs of the new library during its early years of operation.
- 3.9 Costs will be shared between the Council (DCC) and Derwent New Deal for Communities (NDC) on the following basis –

Year	Set up/operational costs		Management/Support costs	
	NDC	DCC	NDC	DCC
2005/06*	100%	nil	nil	100%
2006/07	100%	nil	nil	100%
2007/08	67%	33%	nil	100%
2008/09	33%	67%	nil	100%
2009/10	nil	100%	nil	100%

* two to three months running costs in 2005/06, beginning when the library opens

The City Council’s management and support costs will be met from within the existing Library Service budget. The operational costs of the new library will not impact on the Library Service’s budget until 2007/08, and the Council will not be required to absorb the full running costs of the new library until 2009/10.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 A Neighbourhood Library similar in size and scope to the new Alvaston Library would cost around £1million to construct, with annual running costs of at least £150,000. This scale of library development is only appropriate in District Shopping Centres and other areas with high, well-established levels of public footfall. This option would therefore not be a cost-effective means of developing library services in Derwent.

- 4.2 Continuing the present arrangement of limited library provision in Derwent, delivered through the City Mobile Library, remains an option. However, the partnership with Derwent New Deal for Communities and Greater Derby Primary Care Trust provides a unique and cost-effective opportunity to develop library facilities in Derwent, one that will address a clearly articulated local need and assist the Council in meeting the Public Library Standards.

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Background papers:	Funding Applications submitted to Derwent New Deal for Communities, November 2003
	1. Derwent Community Partnership Library PHASE 1 – Developing Library Services in Derwent
	2. Derwent Community Partnership Library PHASE 2 – Delivering a “Revived” library service from Derwent Healthy Living Centre
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Construction costs of the new library will be absorbed as part of the Healthy Living Centre's capital fundraising. There is no implication for Council budgets.
- 1.2 The costs of equipping, stocking and setting up the new library, and of employing a Library Development Worker between July 2004 and March 2006, will be met by a grant from Derwent New Deal for Communities. Any management costs associated with setting up the new library will be absorbed within from existing budgets.
- 1.3 The running cost of the new library in its first full year of operation, 2006/07, is expected to be £67,072 at 2003 prices. These costs will begin to be borne by the Council in 2007/8 at the level of £22,357, rising to the full amount, £67,072 in 2009/10.
- 1.4 The tapering funding arrangement with Derwent New Deal for Communities will result in the following distribution of revenue costs between it and the Council.

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10 and continuing
NDC	£36,269	£142,376	£67,072	£44,715	£22,357	nil
Council	nil	nil	nil	£22,357	£44,715	£67,072

Costs shown are based on 2003 prices, and take no account of inflationary increases.

Legal

2. The tenancy agreement with the Greater Derby Primary Care Trust will be negotiated within the Council's legal and best practice framework.

Personnel

3. This project includes the creation of two unique posts - Library Development Worker and Library Manager: Community Partnership Library. The gradings of these posts have been estimated for the purpose of negotiations with Derwent New Deal for Communities, and will be confirmed by reference to the Council's best practice. Regardless of the outcome of the formal assessment of gradings, costs will be contained within the total project budget shown in this report. Recruitment to all posts will follow the Council's agreed policies and procedures.

Corporate Themes and Priorities

4. The creation of a library in the Derwent Healthy Living Centre would contribute to the City Council priorities for change:

- Respond to people's needs appropriately, on time and first time, by developing a customer-focused culture....
- Develop an integrated management system of the city and district centres...
- Tackle under-achievement in schools
- Enhance the community leadership role of the Council both at strategic and neighbourhood level...

The activity associated with a library would contribute to the City Council's Vision:

- Strong and positive neighbourhoods
- Education – where services respond to what people need
- Protecting and supporting people
- Shops, commercial and leisure activities
- Integrated, cost effective services