



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET

20 March 2007

ITEM 11

Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct Services

Bid to Community Libraries Programme of the Big Lottery Fund

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Grants of up to £2m are available for imaginative schemes to create neighbourhood libraries fit for the 21st century in England.
- 1.2 A successful bid would allow Derby to complete the programme of public library renewal which has already benefited Sinfen, Alvaston and Derwent and is planned for Oakwood and Mickleover.
- 1.3 The neighbourhoods targeted in the bid would be Allenton, Chellaston and Mackworth.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To authorise a bid to the Community Libraries programme of the Big Lottery Fund for the development of neighbourhood libraries in Allenton, Chellaston and Mackworth.
- 2.2 In the event of a successful bid, to allocate from Council resources £700,500 as match funding, noting that around £233,500 of this sum is likely to be required in 2008/09 and the remainder in the following year.
- 2.3 In the event of a successful bid, to increase Library Service's revenue budget by £299,000 to support the operation of the new libraries, noting that the revenue implications in 2009/10 are estimated at £177,000, rising to £299,000 in 2010/11.
- 2.4 To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Community to work with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Direct Services to finalise the detail of the bid, ready for submission on 30 March 2007.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This is a rare opportunity to boost the impact of the good work on neighbourhood library renewal over recent years so that libraries throughout Derby can play their full part as community resource centres.
- 3.2 The bid would effectively treble the buying power of the Council's funding contribution.

- 3.3 New libraries bring inevitable costs for staffing, maintenance, stock and equipment, but this provides the Council and its partners with a permanent base in the neighbourhood as part of a statutory public service.
- 3.4 The tight timescale will mean that work on the bid continues right up to the deadline. The final submission is expected to be signed off on Thursday 29 March 2007.



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Report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration & Community

Bid to Community Libraries Programme of the Big Lottery Fund

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1 In October 2006 the Big Lottery Fund announced the Community Libraries programme. Through this programme the Big Lottery proposes “to fund libraries that are more than traditional library services and work with their communities to

- Invigorate libraries as centres of wider community learning and development and learning based activities
- Create, improve and develop library services that meet the needs of the whole community

Be innovative and promote good practice in the ways libraries are designed and run.”

1.2 A total of £80 million is available through the Community Libraries programme to fund capital developments that will improve library services in England. The deadline for applications is 30 March 2007.

1.3 Project grants of between £250,000 and £2 million will be available to library authorities. Grants higher than £1.5 million must be supported by 25% match funding. Projects costing less than that figure can be fully funded by the Big Lottery.

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1.5 Each English local authority can submit just one application. This application can be to run a project over more than one site up to a maximum of five sites. If a bid is submitted that covers more than one site it is necessary to demonstrate “how each site is connected to the others and how the application is one project.”

1.6 The Big Lottery’s criteria place great emphasis on services and facilities that “will benefit local communities, in particular disadvantaged and disengaged groups, and will meet community needs.”

- 1.7 The Council is transforming its library service. Since 2003 it has replaced Alvaston Library with the help of NRF funding, opened a new library at Derwent in partnership with New Deal for Communities and the PCT, and launched the Reading Rocket children's mobile library with LPSA funding. Sinfin and Allestree Libraries have been substantially refurbished, and a learning suite has been opened at Blagreaves Lane Library. In July 2007 the new Mickleover Library will open, followed in 2008 by a library at Springwood Leisure Centre, Oakwood. A successful bid to the Community Libraries programme would continue this transformation by enabling the Council to plug long-standing gaps in its network of neighbourhood libraries.
- 1.8 The Council has a policy dating back to 1998 of locating libraries in or adjacent to district shopping centres. Allenton, Chellaston and Mackworth are amongst district shopping centres currently without a library building. Each is wholly or in part a neighbourhood renewal area. Library developments there would be clearly in line with the Big Lottery's criterion of serving disadvantaged communities.
- 1.9 It is therefore proposed to submit a bid to the Community Libraries programme to open neighbourhood libraries in Allenton, Chellaston and Mackworth. The working title for the bid is Project LiRA (Libraries in Renewal Areas). This seeks to show clearly the links between the project and the Community Strategy. It emphasises that the tackling of deprivation is a fundamental element of the proposal, and demonstrates that although spread across three sites this is genuinely a single project.
- 1.10 Each library would have stock of some 10,000 books, around 50% of which will be on the shelves at any one time. Each library would also have approximately ten computers giving users free access to the Internet.
- 1.11 All three libraries would support the neighbourhood agenda by providing space and opportunity to provide information about Council and partner services. Each would therefore have the capability to act as the "local face" of Derby Direct.
- 1.12 The library development in Allenton would be done in partnership with the Adult Learning Service and based at their premises at the former Allen Park School. One room would be converted into a library, the size of which would be increased through the building of an extension. Library Service and Adult Learning Service would work closely with one another to provide joined-up activities and initiatives in support of the learning agenda.
- 1.13 In Chellaston and Mackworth there would be new library buildings on Council-owned land. As well as traditional library resources, both would incorporate a community meeting room, as well as interview rooms that would enable partners to deliver drop-in information and advice sessions similar to those already taking place at Sinfin Library.
- 1.14 All three libraries would have a clear focus on services and resources that support learning at all ages. Costings are based on each library being open for 27 hours per week, but sufficient time has been allowed within the draft staff timetables to enable the delivery of regular learning sessions for both adults and children when the library is closed. These would be supported by centrally-based staff, and possibly also by volunteers as part of our commitment to ensuring that local people have the opportunity to become more closely involved with the delivery local services.

- 1.15 Effective partnerships would be key to a successful bid. At this early stage we have already identified five significant partnership opportunities, and are exploring ways in which these and other partners could use the new neighbourhood libraries as a base from which to operate within the local community.
- 1.16 Successful bids will need to demonstrate that “communities are actively engaged in the development, delivery and management of library services”. To achieve this we shall build on the library user group model that is being piloted at Derwent and Mickleover, as well as exploring ways in which volunteers could play an active part in the services delivered.
- 1.17 The developments being proposed go way beyond the traditional concept of the library as a “warehouse of books”. Libraries created by Project LiRA will be multi-faceted community spaces delivering a range of high quality services in response to the learning, information and library needs of local people. They will give the Council and its partners a visible, modern, accessible foothold within each of the areas affected, while the community engagement strategy will ensure that local residents feel fully involved at all stages of the project, from design through to delivery.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. Consideration was given to including a replacement for Chaddesden Library within the bid. However this has been rejected on the grounds of cost, and because a library development there would not match the bid criteria as well as the proposed libraries in Allenton, Chellaston and Mackworth.

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

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The total capital cost of Project LiRA is estimated at **£2,700,500**. Of this, **£400,500** relates to stock and computer costs. Under the rules of the Community Libraries programme stock and computer costs cannot be included in the grant, so these would have to be met from Council resources. They can however be counted towards match funding. In addition an estimated further **£300,000** capital match funding would be needed from the Council's resources to fully cover the cost of the project. |
- 1.2 The total capital match funding required is therefore estimated at **£700,500**. If the bid is successful and subsequent progress is smooth, it is likely that around **£233,500** would fall in 2008/09, and **£467,000** in 2009/10.
- 1.3 Assuming that Allenton Library opens in May 2009, Chellaston Library in October 2009 and Mackworth in February 2010, the revenue implications in 2009/10 are estimated at **£177,000**, rising to **£299,000** in 2010/11. Revenue costs could be partially offset by adjustments to Mobile Library Service, which could produce savings of up to £62,000 in 2010/11.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising directly from this report.
- 2.2 If the bid is successful, the Council will be required to sign up to the Big Lottery's standard conditions of grant.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.
- 3.2 If the bid is successful, a temporary project manager's post would be created funded from within the overall project budget.
- 3.3 If the bid is successful, approximately 5.7 full-time equivalent posts would be added to the Library Service establishment (15 part-time posts in total). The supervision of those posts would be accommodated within the existing staffing structure.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 If successful the bid will enable the opening of new libraries serving three of Derby's deprived neighbourhoods, and will contribute to "narrowing the gap" in services and opportunities.
- 4.2 Library buildings and services are designed to be accessible and relevant to all sections of the community.

Corporate Priorities

5. The proposal predominantly comes under the Council's Objective of
 - **making us proud of our communities**
 - **supporting everyone in learning and achieving**
 - **giving you excellent services and value for money**