

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH, FAMILIES AND  
CULTURE**

**LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES AND COUNTRY PARKS CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update Members on scheduled capital developments across the Libraries, Archives and Information Service, and the Country Parks and Green Estate Service.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Library Service has an overall aim to be a library and information service at the heart of Nottinghamshire communities and community life.
3. The County Council has a statutory duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service. The County Council maintains an extensive network of libraries and specialist mobile vehicles.
4. A programme of capital investment allows the Service to meet current and future customer needs. The improved accessibility and sustainability of library buildings alongside the creation of inspiring cultural and community spaces supports the Service to fulfil its overall purpose.
5. The customer centred design of the Service's public spaces includes imaginative presentation of library stock and the increased use of information technology to both assist the customer and provide access to information.
6. Nottinghamshire has had a national reputation for its development of library spaces for many years. The Service's current programme of investment supports increased use of library and related services and thus helps deliver increased benefits to the community and individuals.
7. The recently approved 'Strategy for Nottinghamshire's Libraries' includes within its 10 point action plan 2 key actions relating to the Service's properties:-
  - Investing, developing and remodelling the library network
  - Locating library services in the best location for local community and library users
8. The information below sets out a schedule of all planned and approved Libraries capital schemes. This amounts to a planned investment programme of £11.6m between 2012 and 2023.

9. Current Schemes:

- **West Bridgford Library and Young People’s Centre - £5.2m:** Replace current library to provide an accessible and modern library service and create a new young people’s facility. Also includes Shopmobility and Registrars provision. Work on site - March 2013 completion.
- **Nottinghamshire Archives - Extension - £2.1m:** To extend the current specialist archives building to provide up to 25 years capacity and to meet new British Standard for archive repositories. Design stage - contractor to be engaged March 2013.
- **Annesley Woodhouse Library - £110k:** To co locate the library with an extended local Community Centre. Contractor tender - Autumn/Winter 2012.
- **Balmoral Library, Worksop - £25k:** To co-locate the library into surplus accommodation at the Gateford Children’s Centre. Design stage - autumn/winter 2012.
- **Calverton Library - £50k:** Library makeover to improve environment and enhance service. Design/orders - September 2012.
- **East Leake Library - £60k:** Library makeover to improve environment and enhance service. Design/orders - November 2012.
- **Bingham Library - £540k:** To extend the library into the current health centre area to meet space requirements. Potential to include Children’s Centre provision. Design stage spring/summer 2013 (dependent upon progress of new health centre building).

10. In addition to the current programme outlined above, a long term **Library Refurbishment Programme (Phase II)** totalling **£3.3m** over the period 2014 - 2023 is in place. The programme will include a range of redesign and refurbishment. More details will emerge as the individual refurbishment schemes are developed.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Library</b>
2014/15	Keyworth Ollerton
2015/16	Edwinstowe Ruddington
2016/17	Langold
2017/18	Arnold
2018/19	Newark
2019/20	Mansfield Woodhouse
2020/21	Calverton
2021/22	Ravenshead Blidworth
2022/23	East Leake

11. Lastly in this respect, **£35k** has been identified to co locate the library at **Tuxford** as and when an appropriate local scheme/opportunity arises, as the current library accommodation is unsuitable.

## Country Parks

### Refurbishment Works at Rufford Abbey

12. On 16 April 2012, the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Community approved the Project Scope for the Rufford Development Group, the purpose of which was to oversee the creation of a new master plan for the longer term development and improvement of the Country Park.
13. The Terms of Reference for the Group included a number of quick wins to make some short term improvements to the physical aspects of the Park, and the development of an Audience Development Plan prior to the preparation and submission of a major capital funding application to support longer term refurbishments and restoration of the Park.
14. As part of these plans, financial approval of £85k had already been given in 2011/12 to a new income generation scheme to undertake improvements to the Savile Restaurant and Orangery buildings.
15. The business case underpinning these works focussed on the opportunity to increase income by bringing the Orangery into greater use through organised functions, primarily weddings. The associated works at the Savile were not only to create a better visitor experience for day to day business, but also to provide a more flexible function facility, where the dining area could operate as a wedding reception venue.
16. The scheme commenced in November 2011 with applications made for the necessary licensing, change of use, scheduled ancient monument and listed building consents.
17. Works in the Savile were started in January and completed in February to tie in with the low usage time of the year.
18. The refurbishment works at the Orangery are currently being discussed with English Heritage and in the light of objections from Rufford Parish Council, a revised listed building application will be required. It is expected that once a decision has been approved in September 2012, works can then be completed by the end of October.
19. In July 2012, £250k has been identified to fund a programme of 'quick wins' at Rufford Country Park. These include the repair and upgrade of the paths network, structural works to the bridges that surround the lake, the start of an improved signage and interpretation scheme, repairs to the Nemi fountain, a plan for tree works on Broad Ride and improvements to the car parking facilities at the Rufford Mill site. These works can commence in the Autumn and it is planned that they will be completed before the end of this financial year.
20. At the same time as the quick wins are being carried out, the development of the master plan is being undertaken in conjunction with English Heritage and the County Council Conservation Team, and it is envisaged that the draft master plan will be presented to the Culture Committee later this financial year.

## **Improvements to Bestwood Country Park**

21. In May 2012, the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Community approved the Project Scope for the Bestwood Country Park Development Group with a similar Terms of Reference to that for the Rufford Group.
22. In conjunction with the Friends of Bestwood Country Park and other stakeholders, a programme of quick wins and longer term plans are being prepared, the outcome of which will be reported to the Culture Committee later in the year.
23. It is expected that external funding will be sought to enable the implementation of any plans that are devised.

## **Other Options Considered**

24. Selection of sites is based on an assessment of the suitability and sustainability criteria followed in the overall property strategy for the County Council. This includes factors such as accessibility, location, co location, sector standards and changing needs of customers and services.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

25. The report provides a progress report on the implementation of Cultural Services capital activities.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

26. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Implications for Service Users**

27. The investment programme aims to improve facilities and overall service provision for customers. Previous new building and refurbishment projects have resulted in considerable increase up take of services.

## **Financial Implications**

28. The programme is fully funded within the revenue and capital budgets allocated.

## **Equalities Implications**

29. Each scheme has an equalities impact assessment developed during the project initiation phase. Compliance with DDA legislation and consideration of the needs of all users is fundamental to project outcomes.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

30. All schemes aim to provide sustainable buildings to meet current County Council policy.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

31. The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

**Derek Higton**  
**Service Director, Youth, Families and Culture**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

**Country Parks and Green Spaces - Patrick Candler: 01623 821329**  
**Libraries, Archives and Information - Peter Gaw: 0115 977 4201**

### **Constitutional Comments**

32. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional comments are required.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 14.08.12)**

33. The financial implications are referred to in paragraph 28 of the report.

### **Background Papers**

A Strategy for Nottinghamshire's Libraries - Nottinghamshire County Council Dec 2012  
Rufford Development Group – Project Scope April 2012  
Bestwood Development Group – Project Scope May 2012

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All Divisions

C0049