



**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES &
INFORMATION**

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE CELEBRATION

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to hold an event on 3 November 2012 at Mansfield Central Library to celebrate the achievements of children who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge and to thank and recognise the time and effort of the volunteers who have assisted in running the challenge.

Information and Advice

2. The Summer Reading Challenge is an immensely popular and successful reading initiative which focuses on reading for pleasure. It is co-ordinated by The Reading Agency, an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more, and is supported by children's publishers and delivered by public library services. Now in its fourteenth year it involves up to 760,000 children aged 4 to 11 years via 97% of UK local authorities.
3. Children are invited to read six books of their choice over the course of the summer holiday. They join at their local library and a Summer Reading Challenge pack gets them started. There are stickers and rewards to collect along the way with a certificate and medal for every child who reads six books and completes the challenge. Each year the Summer Reading Challenge has a different theme.
4. Last year over 8,900 Nottinghamshire children registered for the Summer Reading Challenge, with over 4,350 children completing.
5. In the last three years volunteers have been recruited to listen to children talk about the books they were reading on the Summer Reading Challenge. Their involvement has provided invaluable support in helping library staff to administer the challenge and expand the Library Service's capacity to spend time with children talking about their reading.
6. In 2011 the Library Service held two events, one at County Hall and another at Worksop Library, at which children representing their libraries had their achievements recognised. It is proposed to hold a similar celebration event this year.
7. The event will be held at Mansfield Central Library on Saturday 3 November, 2pm-3.30pm and will comprise giving of certificates and a performance by a storyteller.
8. We anticipate approximately 40 volunteers and 60 children accompanied by their parents will attend.

Other Options Considered

9. The main alternative option would be to not hold the event.

Reason for Recommendation

10. To celebrate the achievements of children who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge and to thank the volunteers who assisted in running the challenge. In addition the event will raise the profile of the County Council, in particular its work through the Library Service to encourage and support the enjoyment of reading.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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.

Financial Implications

12. The estimated expenditure is as follows:

Storyteller	£200
Refreshments for approx 175 guests (tea, coffee, juice, water & biscuits)	£228
Celebration Cake	£100
Photographer	£190
Certificates	£132
Estimated Total	£850

13. This sum can be met from the Library Service budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That approval be given to support the Summer Reading Challenge celebration event as outlined in this report.

Peter Gaw
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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LM 04/04/12)

14. The Administration Committee had delegated authority within the Scheme of Delegation to approve hospitality offered by the County Council. The Administration Committee may therefore approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (NDR 03/04/12)

15. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 12 of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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