



meeting **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

date **29 September 2010**

agenda item number **4(g)**

## **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND INFORMATION**

### **Summer Reading Challenge Celebration**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to hold two events on 3<sup>rd</sup> November at County Hall and 7<sup>th</sup> November at Worksop Library to celebrate the achievements of children who participated in the Summer Reading Challenge and to thank and recognise the work of the young people who volunteered to assist with running the challenge during their school holidays.

#### **Summer Reading Challenge**

2. The Summer Reading Challenge is an immensely popular and successful reading initiative. Now in its twelfth year it involves up to 750,000 children aged four to 11 years via the UK public library network. It is created and run by The Reading Agency, the independent charity working to inspire more people to read more, and is supported by children's publishers.
3. Each year the challenge to children is simple. They're encouraged to read six or more books of their choice during the holidays with collectable incentives and rewards, plus a certificate and medal for every child who completes the challenge.
4. Last year over 9500 Nottinghamshire children registered for the Summer Reading Challenge, with 47 % completing.
5. In the last two years young people have been recruited to listen to children talk about the books they were reading on the Summer Reading Challenge. Involving young people has had a positive impact on the younger children's attitudes to reading and confidence in completing the challenge. The volunteers 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. The young people benefit from volunteering as they have the opportunity to do be involved in a project that benefits others, to learn new skills, meet new people and work as part of a team. Evidence from The Reading Agency's young people's programmes shows that youth volunteering leads to increased skills, confidence and employment.

### **Celebration Events**

7. The Library Service has held small celebratory events at the end of each summer in libraries over the last 12 years with positive feedback from both children and parents. It is proposed to hold two events at larger venues at which children representing their libraries will have their achievements recognised.
8. The event at County Hall will be held in the Assembly Rooms at County Hall, on Wednesday 3 November, 6pm-7.30pm. The event at Worksop Library will take place on Sunday 7 November, 2.00pm-4.00pm.
9. The events will comprise giving of certificates and a performance by local poet Paul Cookson.
10. We anticipate approximately 100 children and parents will attend the County Hall event and approximately 60 children and parents at Worksop Library.

### **Expenditure**

11. The estimated expenditure is as follows:

<b>West Bridgford</b>	
Light refreshments/cake	450
Poet	200
<b>Worksop</b>	
Afternoon tea	150
Poet	200
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>£1000</b>

This sum can be met from Library Service budget.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

## **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that approval be given to support two Summer Reading Challenge celebration events as outlined in this report.

**Peter Gaw**

**Head of Libraries, Archives and Information**

## **Legal Services' Comments (KK 10.09.10)**

The Administration Committee is responsible for authorising hospitality to be offered by the County Council. The proposal in this report is therefore within the remit of this Committee.

## **Comments of the Service Director Finance (LMc 07.09.10)**

This event is minimal cost and can be met within the current Library Service budget.

## **Background Papers Available for Inspection**

None

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

All