

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

A STRATEGY FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LIBRARIES

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the adoption of a new Libraries Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council has a duty to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient' public library service. In the context of significant restraint on public spending the public library service is required to both provide efficiencies and maximise the impact and value of its extensive provision of reading, learning, information, heritage, and cultural services to Nottinghamshire communities.
3. A new Libraries Strategy is required to: -
 - re-state the County Council's continuing commitment to maintaining and developing a strong libraries network
 - align the future development of libraries to the strategic priorities of the County Council and the Children Families and Cultural Services Department
 - ensure the Council fulfils its statutory duty as a Library Authority under the 1964 act.
 - detail the contribution of libraries to the delivery of the County Council's new Cultural Strategy.
 - act as a strategic framework for the delivery of an excellent and modernised libraries network for Nottinghamshire.
 - highlight the investment priorities for library provision.
4. The Strategy places libraries provision within the context of the County Council's strategic plan 2010 – 2014 and the new Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire.
5. It confirms the purpose of libraries as being places that aim to be at the heart of Nottinghamshire community life. To achieve this libraries will -
 - **Inspire** the enjoyment of books and reading
 - **Create** knowledge through access to learning, information and local heritage
 - **Stimulate** and encourage cultural activities
 - **Offer** excellent and inclusive customer service for all every time.

6. The County Council approach to the future of its libraries provision is outlined in 10 key pledges within the Strategy:
- i. We will **invest** in putting the library service at the heart of the community, maximising the use of libraries as the key face to face service of the County Council
 - ii. We will provide **service where people live**, through an extensive network of libraries and specialist mobile libraries
 - iii. We will **respond to local needs** when developing our service, ensuring that:-
 - libraries are open at convenient times
 - a wide range of resources are available across the library network
 - we consult when making changes to service provision, such as opening hours.
 - iv. We will **increase community involvement** in delivering library services
 - v. We will keep **local communities and customers at the centre of what we do**
 - vi. We will be **modern, innovative** and share best practice
 - vii. We will provide **good customer service** every time and maintain our high satisfaction levels
 - viii. We will work to deliver **positive social, economic and educational outcomes** through our libraries for individuals, communities, local business and culture across Nottinghamshire
 - ix. We will continue to **develop new audiences** for our library service by identifying potential new customers
 - x. We will continue to **explore new operating models** to provide the best library service for Nottinghamshire.
7. The Strategy also sets out a 10 point action plan with specific key outcomes. These are focussed upon:-
- i. Investing in, developing and remodelling Nottinghamshire libraries
 - ii. Locating library services in the best location for local communities and library users
 - iii. Providing resources and access to services in partnership with local communities and customers
 - iv. Continuing to develop the 'core' libraries offer to provide inspiration to read, create knowledge through access to information, learning and the Nottinghamshire story, enhance community life and stimulate cultural activity
 - v. Maximising the use of new technology such as e books and self service

- vi. The further development of planned cultural, heritage and learning programmes
- vii. Maintaining and further developing work with children and young people
- viii. Supporting staff development and empowerment
- ix. Developing 'community library partnerships'
- x. Developing mobile and community based library services to those who cannot visit static library sites.

Other Options Considered

- 8. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- 9. The Strategy will enable the County Council to fulfil its statutory duties and support investment and development in libraries provision to support the Council's overall priorities. The Strategy also makes plain the Council's continuing strong commitment to its comprehensive network of libraries.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- 10. 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

- 11. The delivery of the action plan is based on current revenue budgets and identifies potential longer term areas for capital investment which are subject to the normal decision making process relating to capital investment.
- 12. The commitment within the strategy to continue to provide the same level of access to the service presents no negative implications for library users. The on-going co-location of services will both see a wider range of service in a single location and consequential improvement in access and provision for all citizens.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the County Council approves the Libraries Strategy and its associated action plan.

Councillor John Cottee
Cabinet Member for Culture and Community

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (NB 23/11/11)

13. Council has authority to approve the new Libraries Strategy and its associated plan.

Financial Comments (NDR 28/11/11)

14. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report.

Background Papers

A Strategy for Nottinghamshire Libraries, Nottinghamshire County Council, December 2011.

A Strategy for Nottinghamshire Libraries Background and Insights, Nottinghamshire County Council, December 2011.

Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014 Nottinghamshire County Council, July 2011.

<http://www3.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=116408>

New ambition, principles, priorities and milestones for Children, Families and Cultural Services, Nottinghamshire County Council, for 2011 to 2013. April 2011.

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/cfcsambitionsprioritiesprinciplesposter0511.pdf>

A Cultural Strategy for Nottinghamshire County Council, December 2011 (awaiting approval from County Council)

A local Inquiry into the Public Library Service Provided by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council Sue Charteris. Department of Culture, Media and Sport September 2009.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/wirral_local_inquiry.doc

Future Libraries Changes, options and how to get there. LGG and MLA August 2011.

http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/programmes/the_future_libraries_programme

Culture, knowledge and understanding: great museums and libraries for everyone. Arts Council England September 2011.

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/media/uploads/pdf/culture_knowledge_and_understanding.pdf

Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1964/75/pdfs/ukpga_19640075_en.pdf

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

M19C2922