

Meeting of Executive Member for Leisure and
Culture and Advisory Panel

6 June 2006

Report of the Assistant Director Lifelong Learning and Culture

NEW EARSWICK LIBRARY

Summary

1. The report asks the Executive Member to agree to New Earswick Library being relocated from its existing position into the Integrated Children's Centre at New Earswick Primary School

Background

2. New Earswick Library has been identified through an asset management process as being in a poor location. Book issues have been falling for a number of years (16,608 on 2002/03 to 11,821 in 2005/06) and there have been a number of safety concerns with frequent vandalism to the building and threats to the library staff. It has been necessary to double staff the library and even change the opening hours at various points over the past few years.
3. The strategy of placing learning at the heart of the Library Service is now well established. To realise this strategy the Library Service has been working with Adult and Community Education to develop the concept of Library Learning Centres. Integral to this is the joint delivery of flexible learning in all libraries. New Earswick Library is a key part of this concept as it already delivers the largest proportion of flexible learning.
4. A feasibility study was initially carried out by New Earswick Primary School in February 2002 to reduce surplus places. A school Target Capital Bid was successful in November 2004 of £882,000. The improvements will also provide services to support the local community and beyond, under the umbrella of a Children's Centre. The creation of flexible space will provide on one site, a 'one-stop-shop' for a variety of services including health, childcare and parental support.
5. Following discussions with the school, the LEA and Joseph Rowntree Trust it is proposed to relocate the library in the school as a part of the Children's Centre and take this opportunity to redesign the interior as a Library Learning Centre.
6. Work is currently programmed to start on site in October 2006 and to be completed by Easter 2007.

Options

7. **Option One** is for the library to relocate to the Integrated Children's Centre at New Earswick Primary School and develop as a Library Learning Centre delivering both library services and flexible learning.
8. **Option Two** is for the library to remain in its present position

Analysis

9. **Option One:**
 - ❖ Improved partnership working with the school and early years for example through the provision of information skills for school children
 - ❖ Opportunity to increase library usage and build closer community links without compromising staff safety
 - ❖ Opportunity to extend the provision of flexible learning in the community
 - ❖ Improved visible position close to the main road improving accessibility to the library
 - ❖ Improved security with less vandalism
10. **Option Two:**
 - ❖ Library service will continue to be offered in isolation from other community services in a poor position
 - ❖ Security and safety issues will continue to be a problem and put pressure on revenue budgets

Corporate Objectives

11. The relocation fits well within the wider strategy of the council and the service arm. The project meets the following corporate objectives:
 - ❖ Promote greater use of libraries and archives to ensure that they are an essential source of information and learning (CA7: Vibrant and eventful city)
 - ❖ Strive for excellence and creativity in educational achievement (CA2: Improve Opportunities for Learning)
 - ❖ Improve the range of opportunities for formal and informal adult and lifelong learning, and support residents to develop skills for life (CA2: Improve Opportunities for Learning)
 - ❖ Support residents in learning and work, and improve skill levels in key areas of the economy (CA2: Improve Opportunities for Learning)
12. The project also meets the following priorities from the Lifelong Learning and Culture Plan:
 - Outcome 2 Engaging in Learning*
 - Priority 1: Increase the opportunities for formal lifelong learning and leisure in a range of cultural settings
 - Priority 4: Contribute to the development of a City wide learning culture

Outcome 8 – Infrastructure Planning

Priority 2: Deliver investment in the key priorities: Develop state of the art learning facilities for the city by creating at least 3 local community based facilities for people to engage in learning

Priority 3: Improve the quality of and access to local cultural facilities

Implications

13. The project has the following implications:

- **Financial** - The working assumption is that revenue costs will have to be contained within existing budgets for the project to continue. The costs of equipping the premises will be met within existing budgets. The capital costs of the scheme are included within the Education Capital Programme
- **Human Resources (HR)** None
- **Equalities** None
- **Legal** - The terms of the lease are still subject to formal agreement
- **Crime and Disorder** – The move will provide improved security for both building and staff
- **Information Technology (IT)** The existing IT systems will transfer to the new building
- **Property** - None
- **Other** - None

Risk Management

14. If the library remains in its present position it will be increasingly difficult to improve performance and it will become more isolated from the community. Increased vandalism and concerns for staff safety will impact on revenue budgets. Opportunities for increased partnership working will be lost

Recommendations

15. That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member that New Earswick Library should relocate to the new Children's Centre

Reason: To improve access to the library and increase partnership working.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**

Date 23 May2006

Chief Officer's name
Title

**Report
Approved**

Date

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

List information for all

Implication ie Financial

Implication ie Legal

Name

Name

Title

Title

Tel No.

Tel No.

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

New Earswick and Huntington

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Lifelong Learning and Culture Plan
21st Century Learning 21st Century Libraries

worddoc/reports/emap/new earswick library move.doc