

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Culture, Lifestyle, Sport and Tourism</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> February, 2011</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Reorganisation of the Bookability, Home Library Service and Exchange Collection Service</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>EDS</b>

### **5. Summary**

To consider options for the future delivery of the Bookability, Home Library Service and Exchange Collection services.

### **6. Recommendations**

That the three Library & Information Services known as Bookability, The Home Library Service and the Exchange Collection Service are amalgamated into one new service and delivered by means of a new vehicle.

## **7. Proposals and Details**

Bookability is a mobile library service which visits sheltered accommodation units and residential and nursing homes. The service currently makes 92 stops each month on a fortnightly and monthly schedule. The service has 520 members who borrowed books within the last year and in 2009/2010 issued 41,583 items. This can be compared to a medium sized static library.

The Exchange Collection service is a deposit collection service to residential homes, nursing homes, day centres and sheltered accommodation units. Collections of books are left at 15 sites on a 3 month rota.

The Home Library Service delivers collections of books and audio visual material to those who for reason of infirmity or disability are unable to access a static service point on their own. It serves 330 people from the Central library and 10 community libraries and in 2009/2010 issued 31,065 items. Apart from each Wednesday afternoon the Library Service's delivery van is used, all deliveries are made by Library Assistants using a commercial taxi service.

The Transport team based at Hellaby depot have advised that the Bookability vehicle is becoming increasingly un-roadworthy and expensive to maintain. It is more than 10 years old, which is the usual time for replacing a mobile library.

By using the budget allocated for the hire charge for the Bookability mobile and also the budget for taxi fares it would be possible to hire from Translinc a smaller vehicle than the present mobile. This could then be used to deliver the Home Library Service and the Exchange Collection service as well as Bookability. Furthermore, the proposed van could be driven by anyone with an Ordinary Driving Licence including all members of the teams currently delivering the separate services. This would facilitate the creation of one team and would be accompanied by a reorganisation of the existing routes so that we could offer the public an integrated service

## **8. Finance**

The current services are funded by a total net revenue budget of approx £137,000. The new service would be financed from within this existing budget, releasing a potential saving of £50,000 which amounts to 37% of the total net budget.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

None of our existing users on each of the 3 separate services would be deprived of a library service.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The proposed development will enable the service to maintain its input to those corporate priorities associated with improving the image of the Borough, providing sustainable neighbourhoods and enhancing people's skills confidence and

aspirations. In terms of continuing to deliver a service to those with disabilities or infirmities there is also a link with the public health agenda.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Consultation has been carried out with existing customers to assess their satisfaction with the service.

**Contact Name :**

Sean Bury. Manager. Service Delivery and Evaluation

Tel: 01709 823619

E-mail: [sean.bury@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:sean.bury@rotherham.gov.uk)