

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism
2.	Date:	26 March, 2013
3.	Title:	Improving the presentation of books in Libraries
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

Following the conclusion of the Library and Information Service Review and in response to comments made during the associated public consultation, it is proposed that improvements are made to the presentation of books within libraries.

As one of the outcomes of the Library Review was to retain Kimberworth Library, with the neighbouring Kimberworth Park Library to close, it is proposed to improve the display of books (e.g. modern shelving) at Kimberworth Library.

An exemption from Standing Order 47.6.3 is requested.

6. Recommendations

- **Cabinet Member approves the improvements to the presentation of books and layout of Kimberworth Library.**
- **Cabinet Member gives approval to enable an exemption from Standing Order 47.6.3 (requirement to obtain at least three written quotations for contracts with an estimated value between £20,000 and £50,000) be granted and that OpeningtheBook be appointed to carry out improvements.**

7. Proposals and Details

Following the conclusion of the Library and Information Service Review, decisions have been taken on the future of library buildings across the borough. It is also clear from the associated assessment of need, and from consultation with customers that the service needs to address inconsistencies in the standard of fit out and presentation within libraries.

The current layout and shelving within Kimberworth Library does not offer a welcoming experience. As it is recognised that customers who previously used Kimberworth Park Library (which will close during March 2013) may choose to visit Kimberworth Library in future, it is proposed that this library is improved.

The exemption from Standing Orders has been requested on the basis of timescale and standard library design and previous good experiences with this firm who offer proven value for money. They have won multiple competitive tenders with RMBC, including the recent fit out of Riverside House Library, Heritage and Arts Space.

8. Finance

It is estimated that the costs of improvements to the layout and presentation of books at Kimberworth Library are approximately £36,000. A business case has already been approved by EDS Directorate Management Team for this work. Approval was given for £36K capital expenditure to be incurred on improving the presentation of the book stock at Kimberworth Library. This can be met from within existing budget and a revenue contribution will be made from the service to the authority's capital programme.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Risks to customers have been assessed as part of the impact assessment process of the Library Review and appropriate mitigating actions have been stated.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Libraries contribute to the following priority outcomes:

- More people in our poorest communities are in work and training
- There are more successful new businesses
- More people come to the Town Centre for work, shopping and for things to do and see
- More people are in work or training and less are living on benefits
- People enjoy parks, green spaces, sports, leisure and cultural activities
- More people have formal qualifications and skills
- Babies and preschool children have a good start in life

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation has been held with Finance, Legal and Democratic Services, EDS DMT.

1. Needs Assessment Document - Library Review
2. Library Review Consultation Feedback
3. Impact Assessment Document
4. Library and Information Service Strategy 2011-15

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