

AGENDA ITEM

AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 8 JANUARY 2009

LIBRARIES REVIEW INFORMATION

TIM WHITE, DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

The attached documents are intended to supply Members with the information requested, supported by a brief explanation regarding specific aspects of the library service.

Evidence required

- **Staff costs (07- 08) including overtime payments – Appendix 1**
 - There are two types of overtime payments in the library service. Firstly, enhanced payments for working weekend hours, which are paid as an additional ½ time payment at the member of staff's current grade. The second type of payment is for any additional hours that the member of staff agrees to work to cover sickness, annual leave, meetings, training courses etc to ensure the service continues to run.
 - The total overtime payments are both of the above. Please note, amounts vary between branches because some staff work as relief in branches other than their base, however overtime payments are coded to their base branch.
 - As there is no indication of redundancies at the moment it is not possible to put a cost to this.

- **Current opening hours for each library – Appendix 2**
 - Appendix 2 is the published opening hours for each library. At the moment Abingdon library closes at 5pm on Monday and Wednesday evening due to staff vacancies

- **Current cost of purchase fund – Appendix 3**

- The bookfund for 08-09 is set at £419,000; the projected spend for the year is set out in appendix 3.

- **Comparisons with neighbouring authorities – Appendix 4**

- This is a comparison of information from the neighbouring Tees Valley authorities.

- **Mobile and Housebound provision – Appendix 5**

- The mobile library serves customers who cannot easily get to a branch library, stops include day care centres and community centres. It is specially adapted and fitted with a lift for wheelchair access. The stock carried on the mobile allows customers a wide range of stock and a chance to select their own books.
- The mobile library is also fitted with satellite technology, which allows Internet access and online access to the library management system.
- The current mobile timetable with detailed information about stops, types of calls and numbers involved is set out in Appendix 5.
- The Emergency Planning unit is also looking at procuring funding to equip the mobile library to enable its use as a control centre on site in the event of a major disaster in Middlesbrough.
- The housebound service serves customers who find it difficult to leave their home because of a disability. This service is delivered via a small courier van. The customers are supplied with a small selection of books every 3 weeks, the choice of which is pre-arranged with library staff. There are 160 customers currently using this service.
- The costs for the mobile and housebound services are outlined as follows:-

Mobile Library – costs 07-08

Staffing costs	- £52,678.80
Fleet recharge	- £18,900
Fuel	- £2,657.92
Vehicle maintenance	- £288.46
Total	= £74,525.18

Housebound service – costs 07-08

Staffing costs	- £24,242.85
Fleet recharge	- £6,186.90
Fuel	- £583.62
Extra hires	- £350.30
Total	= £31,363.67

- **Library income – Appendix 6**

- This lists the main sources of library income in the previous year (07-08). The service continues to look at different ways to increase income.

- **Methods used to increase visitor numbers – Appendix 7**

- This lists a range of activities that staff have organised over the past year to encourage visits to libraries in Middlesbrough. This is not comprehensive, but does give an indication of the variety of events, which have taken place.