

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
ON 17 FEBRUARY 2010**

SUBJECT: LIBRARIES INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 Committee is invited to note the timetable for the Libraries Integration Programme which should be completed by October 2010.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Sections D(20) and D(21) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the statutory duties of the Council to secure the adequate provision of libraries and to deal with matters related to the provision of library and information services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Committee notes the timetable for the Libraries Integration Programme and that it should be completed by October 2010.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Education and Social Services Committee on 22 August 2007 (para 11 refers) Committee agreed to a 3 year programme of integration of a number of libraries with primary schools and in the case of Fochabers with the secondary school.
- 3.2 Subsequent to that decision the opportunity was taken to apply for two European Funding streams, the first in respect of Dufftown and Rothes and the second in respect of Burghead, Hopeman, Lossiemouth, Fochabers and Portknockie, to significantly enhance the premises as community resource points, to provide learning centre provision, to address local skills and community capacity building and to provide a community space within a strategic approach. The addition of Lossiemouth was key to evidencing that strategic approach. It was identified that increased income from courses delivered would help offset future revenue costs.
- 3.3 At the meeting of the Children's and Young People's Services Committee on 22 May 2009 (para 29 refers) Committee approved a revised programme which included the upgrading of the existing Dufftown premises and the upgrading of the Lossiemouth premises.
- 3.4 Progress thus far has seen 2 integrated premises open, with building completion dates agreed for all other libraries within the programme. The programme is as follows:

Portknockie	Open from September 2009
Findochty	Open 26 January 2010 (Minor works outstanding)
Rothes: Nursery	Start on site 1 February 2010, works completed 26

	March 2010
Toilets	Start on site 29 March 2010, works completed 23 April 2010
Library	Start on site 5 April 2010, works completed 30 April 2010
Lossiemouth	Start on site 8 February 2010, works completed 9 March 2010
Burghead	Start on site 22 February 2010, works completed 2 April 2010
Dufftown	Start on site 15 March 2010, works completed 10 May 2010
Hopeman	Start on site 22 March 2010, works completed 9 July 2010
Fochabers, Milne's High School	Works underway, to be completed October 2010

- 3.5 The closure of existing premises at Burghead, Rothes, Hopeman and Milne's and transfer to integrated premises will not take place until a completion certificate can be secured, given that we do not want the community to be without its library any longer than necessary. Hence it is not possible, at this stage, to indicate when the new premises will come into use.
- 3.6 In the case of Dufftown the library will require to be closed for the whole period, from one week before the starting date and depending on the securing of a completion certificate for at least one week following the works completion date. Lossiemouth is closed for the whole of the contract period.
- 3.7 These closures will inevitably cause some service disruption, but the upgraded libraries will ensure facilities fit for purpose in meeting the library needs of the communities served and in acting as reader development and literacy centres, learning centres, information centres, community resource points and council service points.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**

The provision of integrated libraries and learning centres supports key community planning themes and in particular Local Priorities 5, 9 and 10.

The delivery of the Libraries Integration Programme is a key element within the Departmental Service Plan.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

Section 163(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 places a duty on local authorities to make adequate provision of libraries facilities in their area.

(c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

i. Finance

The Libraries Integration Programme is anticipated to save £21,000 in current annual running costs related to property, cleaning and energy costs and £148,320 in future building maintenance costs.

The capital costs can be met from the agreed capital plan.

ii. Risks

Should the Council not implement the programme in full it would jeopardise the European funding available and fail to meet its statutory responsibilities in respect of public library provision.

iii. Staffing

None

iv. Property

The Libraries Integration programme releases for disposal premises at Burghead, Hopeman, Findochty, Portknockie and Rothes.

(d) Consultations

The Educational Services Senior Management Team has been consulted.

Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant has been consulted and agrees with the financial implications within the report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That Committee notes the timetable for the Libraries Integration Programme which should be completed by October 2010.

Author of Report: Alistair Campbell, Libraries and Museums Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Children and Young People's Services
Committee/17 February 2010/Libraries Integration Programme