

**REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 2 FEBRUARY 2010**

**SUBJECT: INTEGRATED LIBRARIES PROGRAMME**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 Committee is invited to note that the costs of the integrated libraries programme, enhanced by European Funding and with the addition of Lossiemouth Library can be met from within the Capital Programme allocation.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A(7) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the monitoring of projects in the Council's capital plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Committee notes that the Libraries Integration Programme, enhanced by European Funding and with the addition of the upgrading of Lossiemouth Library can be met from within the capital programme allocation as summarised in Appendix 1 to this report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the Education and Social Services Committee on 22 August 2007 (para 11 refers) members 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) members approved a revised programme which included the upgrading of the existing Dufftown premises and the upgrading of the Lossiemouth premises.
- 3.4 Tender costs have been received in respect of those premises to be upgraded or initiated during 2009-2010 and detailed estimates in respect of Hopeman

which is due to be completed in July 2010. These costs can be met from the European Funding and capital allocations available, as summarised in **Appendix 1** to this report.

#### **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

Appendix 1 to the report sets out the financial changes, clarifies that the programme can be met from the existing capital programme and identifies the revenue implications, mainly that there are savings and increased income to be achieved through the Libraries Integration programme.

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.

The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted and agrees with the financial implications within the report.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

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**5.1 That Committee notes that the Libraries Integration Programme should be met from within the Capital Programme.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: DMD/JR/Reports/Policy and Resources Committee/2 February  
2010/Integrated Libraries Programme