

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
Date of Committee **26th July, 2005**
Report Title **Improving ICT to Mobile Libraries- Proposed Scrutiny Review**

Summary This report seeks to propose a review in the area of mobile libraries and ICT. The report outlines the possible framework for the review in terms of context, objectives, membership, methodology and the timescales for completion.

For further information please contact:

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members Cllrs Sid Tooth, Mota Singh, Marion Haywood, Richard Dodd,
- Cabinet Member Cllr Colin Hayfield
- Chief Executive
- Legal Victoria Gould, comments noted .
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers

- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Kushal Birla.....

FINAL DECISION No

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Adult and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny
Committee – 26th July 2005.**

**Improving ICT to Mobile Libraries- Proposed Scrutiny
Review**

**Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief
Executive**

Recommendations

1. That, subject to any comments made by the Committee, a task and finish group be authorised to investigate the issue of improving Information Communication Technology (ICT) to Mobile Libraries within the objectives, methodology and timescales set out in this report.
2. That a councillor is nominated from each political party to form the Task and Finish Group
3. That a final report of the Group be submitted to the October meeting of the Committee.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight an opportunity for the Committee to support the development Warwickshire County Council's investment approach to using (ICT) in the Mobile Library Service.
- 1.2 The launch of a new mobile fleet in September 2006 will provide opportunities for service enhancement and a start date for tendering for the fleet will be October 2005.
- 1.3 The provision of ICT on mobile libraries is a resource intensive exercise and therefore requires a high degree of clarity with regards to the reasons why this should be included on the mobile fleet. It has been suggested therefore that scrutiny of this area would provide clarity on the overall vision for ICT provision from mobile facilities and how this can effectively be taken forward.
- 1.4 The proposed scrutiny exercise offers a real opportunity to shape and develop policy and conduct joint working with the executive in seeking to promote overall corporate objectives.
- 1.5 This report seeks authorisation to set up a task and finish group to undertake this work and report their findings to this Committee in October 2005.

2. Context

2.1 Context

- 2.1.1 The whole service Best Value Review, Building For the Future (Cabinet 22nd July 2004) will require the support of a state of the art mobile library service capable of providing access to e learning, e citizenship and e government.
- 2.1.2 Scrutiny of the Mobile Library Service will test the assumptions made within the Building For the Future review and potentially impact on other work currently being undertaken by officers on the developing Libraries service proposition.

2.2 Why has this topic been identified?

- 2.2.1 The timeliness of this proposed scrutiny is ideal given that decisions regarding the replacement fleet have not yet been made.
- 2.2.2 Members' support is required in driving forward agreement on the technical aspects of the review and without this there may be delays through officers taking polarised views, which may require the current lease to be extended with cost implications.
- 2.2.3 Members identified this as a possible scrutiny area during the development of the Corporate Review Programme 2005/06.

2.3 How does the scrutiny review meet corporate objectives?

- Due to the resource implications of providing enhanced ICT on mobile libraries the Scrutiny Review will support Best Value principles and the efficient use of resources
- The scrutiny review will provide a clear indication and on how members regard mobile library services and its role in supporting the County Councils access agenda
- The scrutiny review will provide a steer for Libraries Heritage and Trading Standards with regards to what Members see are the key priority areas for mobile libraries in support of corporate objectives

2.4 Which corporate objectives does it relate to?

- Social inclusion
- Rural Isolation
- Improved access to County Council services
- Access to learning
- Support for home tutors and children learning from home
- Support for the economy, in particular home workers living in rural communities
- The rural transport agenda
- The cultural agenda

3. Membership

- 3.1 It is suggested that a task and finish group be formed to undertake this Scrutiny exercise consisting of one member from each party. The group will be supported by Martin Lake from the Corporate Review Team.
- 3.2 The group will need to consider its working arrangements with the Portfolio holder Cllr Colin Hayfield

4. Objectives

The key objectives of the scrutiny exercise are as follows:

- To have in place a clear rationale for delivering ICT services from mobile based facilities
- To have in place a knowledge base on what ICT solutions are available and how these can be incorporated into the design of the new mobile fleet
- To develop a clearer understanding between CAMS and LHTS on their overall vision for ICT provision from mobile facilities and how this can be effectively taken forward
- To enhance Members understanding of the vision of LHTS with regards to 21st Century services and how these can be incorporated into mobile based facilities serving rural and transport remote communities
- To understand the issues, concerns and needs of key stakeholders, partners and customers with regards to ICT access on mobile libraries

5. Methodology/Timescales

The outline methodology and timescales are outlined as follows:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timescale</i>
Draft Terms of Reference presented to Adult and Community Services Committee and agree task and finish group membership	26 th July 2005
First Meeting of task and finish group	Early August 2005
Briefing 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Investigate alternative types of ICT provision in rural areas in the UK Officers/Executive▪ Identify how ICT on mobile libraries is improving access to council services and learning in other rural counties in the UK Officers/ Executive	August 2005
Through consultation with stakeholders, partners and customers identify what their main requirements are and how they can be met through ICT on mobile libraries ...	August/September 2005
Briefing 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To investigate the various technologies which are being used in the UK to provide ICT access on mobile libraries Officers/ Executive▪ To acknowledge and understand the key challenges for the Department and CAMS in providing ICT solutions on mobile libraries Officers/ Executive	Early September 2005
Report to full committee	11 th October 2005

7. Recommendations

1. That, subject to any comments made by the Committee, a task and finish group be authorised to investigate the issue of improving ICT to Mobile Libraries within the objectives, methodology and timescales set out in this report.
2. That a councillor is nominated from each political party to form the Task and Finish Group
3. That a final report of the Group be submitted to the October meeting of the Committee

DAVID CARTER
County Solicitor and Assistant
Chief Executive

Shire Hall
Warwick

June 2005