

Derbyshire County Council

Cabinet

13 March 2012

Report of the Strategic Director, Cultural and Community Services

SCHOOLS LIBRARY SERVICE (SLS) CHARGES (Leadership and Culture)

1 Purpose of the Report:

To seek approval to implement revised charges for the Derbyshire and Derby Schools Library Service.

2 Information and Analysis:

2.1 The Derbyshire and Derby City Schools Library Service was established in 1997 to serve schools from both authorities, and support their pupils' educational, learning and literacy needs. The Service derived from the County Council Museum and Library Services for Schools created in the 1930s and the Derby Borough Audio Visual Service for Schools; all of which were co-located at Kedleston Road in 1974. Unlike most other authorities in the East Midlands and indeed the rest of the country, the service provided is a multimedia and artefact-based project loan service, including books, posters, audio-visual and other media in a range of subject areas. Many items are unique, original and bespoke. The service is managed and delivered by informed, knowledgeable and professionally qualified staff.

2.2 The number of schools that could potentially utilise SLS are as follows with actual take-up shown in brackets:

Type of school/college	Derbyshire	Derby City
Nursery schools	8 (2)	8 (0)
Primary schools	350 (183)	70 (31)
Secondary schools	46 (17)	13 (5)
Special schools	10 (5)	6 (5)
F.E College	0 (2)	1 (1)
University	0	1 (1)
Out of County	(3)	-
Totals	414 (212)	97 (43)

2.2 Since 2000 SLS has been a traded service. In the current economic climate, and with increasing pressures on budgets, schools need a ready and reliable source of curriculum support, but as a traded service SLS needs to generate adequate revenue to meet changing demands. The budgeted expenditure for SLS in 2012/2013 is £236,371 and the associated income target is £271,580. The budget forecast for the end of the financial year indicates that the overall income target will not be achieved and there will only be net income of £6,376 for the year.

2.3 The services that SLS provides are a valuable lifeline and support to schools, particularly ones that are rurally isolated. SLS helps to support the Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy's vision for "everyone in Derbyshire to achieve a good quality of life", the council's vision 'to improve life for local people' by providing opportunities to raise reading and literacy levels, improving on achievement and exam outcomes and raising aspirations to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

The Service has recently undergone a full review of its resources, including acquisition, maintenance and storage. Further work is being undertaken to enhance the understanding by schools of the value for money offered by subscribing to the School Library Service. This will include the possibility of partnering with other providers in the delivery of specialist library advice in all types of schools (a service requested by a number of schools but which the existing SLS structure is unable to deliver).

2.4 A number of benefits will accrue from an increase in take up of SLS services and the resulting increase in income:

- The current budget allows the service to maintain existing levels of service and cover day to day running costs. There is no funding to develop the service in response to the changing needs of schools. Increased income means the service will be better placed to respond to any changes to school curricula.
- There is a need to regularly replace the existing book stock by buying current titles, including teacher support materials. A current and relevant book stock can be used to support schools with their OFSTED inspections, which now require them to demonstrate their commitment to improving reading and literacy in school and to show how they motivate children in reading.
- Schools could channel their spending and make more use of the money they have available by buying in to a loan service, rather than buying materials permanently for themselves. No single school can provide access to the range of items needed to support learning and development that is available at SLS.
- Increased income would also enable the current collection of artefacts to be better maintained including repairs, re-boxing and cleaning.
- By increasing take up, more schools will benefit from the resource available to enhance the enjoyment and learning experiences of children who may not

otherwise be able to access such resources through museums and art galleries.

2.5 Derbyshire currently charges an annual membership fee of £180, and a flat rate fee of £2.50, per item loan charge. The membership charge has not increased in the last two years, while the per item fee was established in 2000, and has not been reviewed since that date. The current level of charges is no longer adequate to meet the continued support or development needs of the service, and threatens the viability of the Schools Library Service as a traded service.

As part of the review of charges at the Schools Library Service comparisons have been made with a range of other authorities. This revealed that the charges levied in Derbyshire are significantly lower than those of other authorities, and below the national recommendation of the Schools Library Association. Work has begun to explain to schools the value they get from their subscription, the costs of buying items for themselves or buying in to other services as opposed to SLS. However, it is anticipated that inevitably some schools may choose to stop using the service as a result of the modest increase in charges, but this should be offset by an increase in overall take up of the service

2.6 Schools Library Services are a cost-effective way for schools to make sure children of all abilities have access to the best quality materials in the classroom to inspire their learning. They are fundamental in encouraging and supporting literacy, and encouraging a reading culture. They add value in terms of providing support materials to aid the development of children's reading and literacy levels, develop imagination and improve exam results.

Baroness Estelle Morris wrote in her report "Schools Libraries: a plan for improvement" (2010):

School Library Services could be a highly efficient way of ensuring that clusters of schools maximise their value for money by having access to the resources, information and expertise they need to develop children's reading and literacy, and offering access to knowledge they may not have on site or may not be able to afford in the future.

2.7 A review of charges is necessary to enable SLS to continue to conserve, reassess and maintain its current collections; develop and promote new collections and tailor services to changing demands. Without an increase in charges, SLS will be unable to maintain an acceptable standard of service, respond to changing curriculum needs, or cover its operating costs.

2.8 The current charges are outlined in Appendix 1, and proposed revised charges for 2012-13 outlined in Appendix 2. Appendix 3 includes a proposed extension of the service to other educational institutions and groups to maximise potential revenue which is a policy change. The review of charges is the start of a SLS review which will look at the way it functions, services offered and future developments in order to make the service attractive, essential and relevant to its clients.

Appendix 1 – Current table of charges 2011-2012

3 Financial Considerations:

As detailed in the report above.

Derby City are in agreement with the proposed change in charges.

4 Other Considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered; legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5 Background Papers:

None

6 Key Decision:

No

7 Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

8 Strategic Director's Recommendations:

That Cabinet approve the revised charges for the Derbyshire and Derby School Library Service for 2012 -2013 as detailed in Appendices 2 and 3.

Martin Molloy
Strategic Director
Cultural and Community Services

Current School Library Service Subscriptions

Appendix 1

[illegible]

Facilitated Learning Sessions	Cost of facilitator paid direct to them+ £50 loan of SLS resource box	Cost of facilitator paid direct to them+ £50 loan of SLS resource box	Cost of facilitator paid direct to them+ £50 loan of SLS resource box	Cost of facilitator paid direct to them+ £50 loan of SLS resource box	Not available outside Derbyshire	Not available outside Derbyshire	Not available outside Derbyshire	Not available outside Derbyshire	Not applicable	Not applicable
SLS visiting author talks	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Photographic, print and Painting Reproduction per item *	Cost of print	Cost of print	Cost of print	Cost of print	Cost of print	Cost of print	Cost of print	Cost of print	Cost of print	Cost of print

*** Where applicable, copyright clearance will need to be gained by the requester. For non commercial publication the fee may be reduced or waived. Where a commercial publisher is collaborating with the Schools Library Service, credit will need to be given for the source and fees may be reduced**

(1) Predetermined book boxes suitable for out of hours school groups, breakfast clubs etc

School Library Service Subscriptions 2012-13

Appendix 2

	PRIMARY SCHOOLS in Derbyshire/ Derby	SECONDARY SCHOOLS/ Academies in Derbyshire/ Derby	Independent/ Private in Derbyshire/ Derby	SPECIAL SCHOOLS in Derbyshire/ Derby	Home Education/ Child minders etc (2)	NURSERIES in Derbyshire/ Derby	PRIMARY SCHOOLS other authorities (1)	SECONDARY SCHOOLS/ Academies other authorities (1)	Independent/ Private, other authorities (1)	SPECIAL SCHOOLS other authorities (1)
Basic Buy in	£230	£230	£230	£230	£25	£25	300	350	350	£300
KS2 Fiction boxes (25 titles per box)	£20	£20	£20	£20	£20	£20	£25	£25	£25	£25
KS1/2 story boxes (3)	£10	£10	£10	£10	£10	£10	£15	£15	£15	£15
Fiction sets (6 per box)	£3	£3	£3	£3	£3	£3	£5	£5	£5	£5
Enhanced Boxes	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50	£50	£75	£100	£100	£75
School Library Stock Audit visits (this will include access to a 25% discount on books purchased as a result of an audit)	£180 for 1/2 day; £300 per day	; £210 for 1/2 day; £350 per day	£210 for 1/2 day; £350 per day	£180 for 1/2 day; £300 per day	N/A	£180 for 1/2 day; £300 per day	£250 for 1/2 day; £500 per day	£250 for 1/2 day; £500 per day	£250 for 1/2 day; £500 per day	£250 for 1/2 day; £500 per day
Bespoke resource boxes (subject to availability of items)	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request	Cost of individual items added together. Item prices available on request

SLS visiting author talks (10% discount for subscribing schools)	£4	£4	£4	£4	£4	£4	£4	£4	£4	£4
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Talks about SLS(non educational groups + non Derbyshire schools)	No charge	No charge	No charge	No charge	In Derbyshire/ Derby £30 Outside £50 + travel	No charge	£50 + travel	£50 + travel	£50 + travel	£50 + travel
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Organised group tours (Non educational groups + non Derbyshire schools)	No charge	No charge	No charge	No charge	In Hours (subject to availability) £1 per person (min of 5) Out of Hrs (subject to availability) £30 (max of 10)	No charge	In Hours (subject to availability) £1 per person (min of 5) Out of Hrs (subject to availability) £30 (max of 10)	In Hours (subject to availability) £1 per person (min of 5) Out of Hrs (subject to availability) £30 (max of 10)	In Hours (subject to availability) £1 per person (min of 5) Out of Hrs (subject to availability) £30 (max of 10)	In Hours (subject to availability) £1 per person (min of 5) Out of Hrs (subject to availability) £30 (max of 10)
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(1) Transport costs are not included in these prices. Items will need to be collected or delivery paid for

(2) Transport costs are not included. Items need to be collected

(3) Predetermined book boxes suitable for out of hours school groups, breakfast clubs etc