

**WARDS AFFECTED:  
ASPLEY**

**ITEM:**

**WEST AREA COMMITTEE  
11 January 2006**

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**ASPLEY LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM**

**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from the West Area Committee for funding to be made available to establish a Community Room at the Aspley Library.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the West Area Committee allocate £2,790 from the Aspley ward budget for the required works to be carried out.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Criminal activity and anti-social behaviour continue to be a major problem within the Aspley ward. Residents are often left feeling intimidated and scared. The Library Service is keen to play its part in addressing ASB and engaging with young people in a meaningful way.
- 3.2 Many young people visit the Aspley library regularly to access core services and have expressed an interest for additional resources to be made available.
- 3.3 The main purpose for the room and contributions from the Library Service towards the community room are outlined in Appendix 1 (Aspley Community Room).

**4 OBSERVATIONS OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

The £2790 cost of the security improvements can be met from the Aspley Ward's current uncommitted balance of £14,332. This figure does not include the effect of any other requests for allocation elsewhere on this agenda.

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**6 STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 6.1 This report contributes towards the following strategic aims:
- Promoting Education And Lifelong Learning
  - Improving The Health Of Local People
  - Maximising Leisure And Cultural Opportunities

**7 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None.

**8 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

None.

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8 December 2005

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **ASPLEY COMMUNITY ROOM**

There has been a clear need identified within the community for a Community Room at Aspley Library. This venue would provide an access point for local partnership working, increasing community cohesiveness and extending the range of facilities/skills available through the Library Service. Aspley Library has an existing staff workroom of good proportions that can be used for this purpose.

Local organizations showing an interest in joint working and outreach work within Aspley Library include:

- Aspley Reading group
- Broxtowe Partnership (existing projects)
- Health and Wellbeing – Adult Promotion in association with Sure Start and Age Concern with information, advice and group activities.
- Connexions - Access Centre
- Youth Workers/Detached – Youth projects/sessions
- Council and Police Surgeries
- Local Schools – Homework Centre
- BEST – Venue for skills workshops and courses
- First Data – Venue for ICT skills, return to work, over 60's etc

The partnership working meets many local targets within the area and allows for the community room being inclusive of all ages and requirements. From detached youth workers having an additional outreach venue for activity sessions with the benefits of our existing library stock, facilities and staffing through to First Data ICT workshops for all ages and Age concern running an over 60's health and fitness session.

Additional groups able to use the venue may include:

- Talks/over 60's group/Hobby Clubs
- Brownies/Guides/Scouts etc
- Meetings/ Conferences
- Training courses
- Exhibitions

- Slimming clubs
- Support groups
- Local history groups
- Adult Education Classes
- Basic Skills
- ESOL Courses
- Arts/Crafts/Drama clubs

The Library Service can provide:

- Heating, Lighting (to be replaced by library service), daily building Costs maintenance through cleaner and caretaker.
- The room is accessible by people with disabilities and has toilet facilities on hand.
- Foldaway tables and chairs for large group work (are old but can still be used new ones to replace would cost an additional £800 in the funding request)
- Refreshment facilities available to all using the community room
- 7 Power and data cable points. And T.V Video sockets
- access to data projector if pre-booked
- Information provision and additional book stock based on group requirements.
- Staff time and skills.

### What We Need: Including Costings

#### Basics

- |                                   |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| ○ Painting and laminate flooring  | £800 |
| ○ Window Blinds                   | £300 |
| ○ Two moveable storage Units      | £400 |
| ○ 4 x low chairs(disabled access) | £520 |
| ○ T.V and dvd/Video               | £200 |
| ○ Interactive white board         | £270 |
| ○ Notice/display Boards (x4)      | £200 |
| ○ Wall mounted Leaflet dispensers | £100 |

Total	£2790 approx
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What we would require if using workroom for ICT purposes ie homework centre, without First Data who only work with 16+ and bring their own laptops. (have received SRB funding at other libraries for this)

○ 10 laptops and storage unit	£10,000
○ power and data cable points (x3 )	£300
○ Homework centre officer 2 days week for 3hours during schools term time (salary)	£4,000
○ Promotional material	£400
○ Stationary	£800
Additional	£15,500.00

The basic costs of £2790.00 provide an open versatile room that requires individual groups to bring along additional props and materials unavailable within Aspley Library. For most there is little required and this would make a good quality, usable community room.

However, there have been additional requests surrounding a homework centre as a benefit to both schools and local parents and children. While the community room would provide an excellent venue the additional costs would be fairly substantial and would need to be explored for sustained funding for parts. The basic costings have been added as a possibility or for future negotiation.

The above provides basic information about interest in a community room at Aspley Library, Partnership working and the Funding involved to create Aspley Community Room. I am happy to go into more detail if some of the information is not clear. My contact details are below:

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