

REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT ON: REVISIONS TO THE AUDIO LENDING SERVICE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

REPORT NO: 676-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to introduce revisions to the audio lending service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the following proposals :

- To revise audio subscription rates
- To introduce a pay per loan scheme for audio items
- To remove charges levied on music cassettes

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The net effect of the above recommendations would result in an estimated additional income of approximately £1,000.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Local needs will be met locally.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 To allow access to the citizens of Dundee to informational and recreational material in a variety of formats.

6.0 BACKGROUND

Annual Subscription

6.1 Annual audio subscription rates currently stand at £7.50 (full rate) and £1.00 (concessionary rate for the 60+ age group). The service is free of charge to those who are registered blind. These rates have not been reviewed since 1997. Two of our neighbouring authorities operating a subscription system charge £10.00 and £12.00 for the full rate.

6.2 The proposed charges are £10.00 full rate and £2.00 concession. Registered blind people will continue to have access to the service free of charge.

Pay For Loan Scheme

6.3 The City has a large population of students not resident in Dundee throughout the whole year. Since they are unable to take full advantage of an annual subscription they are less likely to subscribe. Other people may prefer to use the service on a pay per loan basis before committing themselves to paying an annual subscription.

- 6.4 During a recent survey conducted in all libraries with audio collections, a level of demand for a pay for loan scheme was evident. This would supplement the existing subscription facility.
- 6.5 Aberdeen City Libraries and Fife Library Service report an increase in audio usage since the introduction of a two-tier system.

Music Cassettes

- 6.6 Library members may currently borrow music on cassette if they have taken out an annual subscription. Demand for cassettes has been declining steadily over several years as CDs have taken their place. Consequently no new music cassettes have been added to stock over the past year.
- 6.7 A survey was conducted to establish the proportion of library members who still borrow cassettes. 55% of the 141 people surveyed never borrow them, 23% borrow them only if the music is not available on CD. The remaining 22% still borrow cassettes.
- 6.8 It is proposed that library members be allowed to borrow music cassettes free of charge.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place with the Directors of Finance and Support Services.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 No background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Signed

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 Director : Neighbourhood Resources & Development Department

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 Date