

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 25 February 2008

REPORT ON: Review of CD and DVD Provision in Libraries

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 86- 2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks Committee approval to review CD and DVD provision through the network of libraries across the City.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the following proposals with effect from April 2008:

- Reduce the DVD hire service
- Remove charges levied on CDs
- Discontinue the purchase of CDs

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Approval of the above recommendations will result in a saving of £18,959 in a full financial year.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Annual audio subscription rates for CDs currently stand at £10.00 (full rate) and £2.00 (concessionary rate for the 60+ age group). The service is free of charge to those who are registered blind or partially sighted). Hire charges are 50p per CD.

4.2 In recent years technological developments have resulted in widespread availability of low cost music downloads through the Internet as an alternative to CDs. With the increase in use of equipment such as MP 3 Players and ipods, demand for the CD format has significantly dropped.

4.3 This has had a major impact on the usage of CD services provided through public libraries across the country. In Dundee, issue figures for CDs have fallen by over 25% since 2005/06, with a projected reduction in income of approximately £6,000 in 2007/08.

4.4 An increasing number of households now have access to an extensive variety of film and television channels through cable and satellite television. This is having a gradual but significant effect on demand for DVDs.

4.5 The reduction in demand indicates that the provision of a CD and DVD service at current levels is unsustainable.

4.6 It is recommended that no new CDs are purchased and that all charges are removed for the hire of CDs from existing stock. The resource budget allocation for DVD provision should be reduced from £29,040 to £15,000 to reflect the reduction in

demand for this service.

- 4.7 Current members of the audio subscription service who joined within the previous year will be given a pro rata refund.
- 4.8 The provision of audio books in CD format to library users who are registered blind or partially sighted will be maintained.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
6 FEBRUARY 2008