

WASHINGTON EXTENDED LIBRARY SERVICE

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Following the closure of Washington Town Centre library for a major refurbishment in February 2008, other library services in Washington were enhanced to support the development.
- 1.2 Washington Green Library extended opening times to include all day Wednesday and Thursday, which are the days when the library is usually closed.
- 1.3 Washington Millennium Centre Library extended opening times to include all day Wednesday and Saturday afternoon, which are the times when the library is usually closed.
- 1.4 One of the mobile libraries is also timetabled to visit areas of Washington not covered in the current timetable.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Staff from Washington Town Centre Library are being utilised to cover the extra opening hours at both Washington Green and Washington Millennium Centre libraries.
- 2.2 The mobile routes have been altered to accommodate the extra stops in the wider Washington area.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Washington Green has increased its opening hours by 13 hours per week. (52 per month).
- 3.2 Issues have increased by an average of 682 per month = 39 % increase. (Appendix 1)
- 3.3 Business has increased not only on the days usually closed, but also on normal opening days.
- 3.4 Washington Millennium Centre has increased its opening hours by 10 hours per week. (40 per month)
- 3.5 Issues have increased by an average of 914 per month, 22% increase and business has increased over the whole week, not just over the extra opening days. (Appendix 2)

- 3.6 The mobile library visits new stops in the Washington area on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- 3.7 Issues have been double the average at the Tuesday and Thursday stops. However the Wednesday stop is not as popular so investigations are underway to locate a more suitable and accessible venue. (Appendix 3)
- 3.8 A library service is also offered from the Conference room at Washington Leisure Centre which is proving popular with existing library users and leisure centre users.
- 3.9 The service offers books, DVD's, CD's, newspapers, magazines and public access PC's. (Appendix 4)

4.0 PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The library service maintains a temporary library service in Washington Leisure Centre for the duration of the refurbishment.
- 4.2 The extended services at other venues in Washington have proved to be popular with Washington Town Centre customers and existing customers at Washington Green and Washington Millennium Centre and should be retained.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 There were no background papers relied upon to complete this report.

(Appendix 1)

WASHINGTON GREEN ISSUES

DATE	ISSUES	DATE	ISSUES
January 2007	1650	January 2008	1526
February 2007	1497	February 2008	1923
March 2007	1995	March 2008	2570
April 2007	1740	April 2008	3099
May 2007	1668	May 2008	2842
TOTAL	8550	TOTAL	11960

(Appendix 2)

WASHINGTON MILLENNIUM CENTRE ISSUES

DATE	ISSUES	DATE	ISSUES
January 2007	3923	January 2008	4055
February 2007	3874	February 2008	3983
March 2007	4624	March 2008	58020
April 2007	4028	April 2008	5664
May 2007	3847	May 2008	5364
TOTAL	20296	TOTAL	24868

(Appendix 3)

MOBILE LIBRARY ISSUES (*manual count*)

DATE	ISSUES	DATE	ISSUES
Daily issues at normal stops 3/08	50	Daily issues at extra Washington stops	35
Daily issues at normal stops 4/08	50	Daily issues at extra Washington stops	69
Daily issues at normal stops 5/08	50	Daily issues at extra Washington stops	84

(Appendix 4)

WASHINGTON TOWN CENTRE LIBRARY FROM LEISURE CENTRE

DATE	ISSUES	DATE	ISSUES
July 2007 (books)	14202	July 2008(books)	6088 (-57%)
July 2007(Audio visual)	1195	July 2008 (audio visual)	415 (-65%)