

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Stourbridge Area Committee – 15 November 2004

Report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Archives and Local History Service

Purpose

1. To inform the Area Committee of the proposals to relocate the Archives and Local History Service from its present location at Mount Pleasant, Coseley to C Block at Summerhill, Kingswinford.

Background

2. The Archives and Local History Service is currently located in a nineteenth century converted school building in Coseley. The accommodation is no longer fit for purpose. Further details are contained in the attached report, which was approved by the Executive on 8 September 2004.
3. A once-only opportunity to relocate to more modern premises exists in the form of C Block at Summerhill and detailed investigations to confirm the financial and technical feasibility of such a move are currently underway.
4. The original decision made by the Lead Member for Education and Lifelong Learning to negotiate to acquire C Block was the subject of a 'call-in' by the Select Committee on Culture and Recreation. The outcome of the 'call-in' procedure was that the original decision was confirmed though comments of the Select Committee were noted.

Finance

5. The proposal to relocate the Archives and Local History Service will be carried out at no cost to the Council. The Executive has approved the use of the capital receipts from the sale of the suite at Coseley to fund the overall project. If the capital receipts are insufficient to fund the project, then it will not proceed.

Law

6. The Council may acquire land and buildings by agreement under Section 120 of the Local Government Act 1972.
7. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its statutory functions.
8. The Council has a duty to maintain an archive service under the Local Government (Records) Act 1962.

Equal Opportunities Policy

9. The proposal takes account of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Proposal

10. That the Area Committee notes and endorses the proposal to relocate the Archives and Local History Service.



John Freeman
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Background Papers

The undermentioned papers were used in the compilation of this report:

Report to the Executive – 8 September 2004