

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	Library Position Statement		
Report to be considered by:	Mike Rodger	on:	09 September 2004
Forward Plan Ref:	ID0798		

Purpose of Report:

Report required from Library Service for submission to DCMS

Recommended Action:

To approve the report

Reason for decision to be taken:

- Statutory requirement for report to be submitted and to have political approval

List of other options considered:

- None

Key background documentation:

- National Standards report

Portfolio Member:	Councillor Mike Rodger
Tel. No.:	01635 35001
E-mail Address:	mrodger@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Christine Owen
Job Title:	Libraries and Information Strategic Development Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519904
E-mail Address:	cowen@westberks.gov.uk

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 This is the second, and last, time a Library Position Statement has to be produced and submitted to the DCMS. Library authorities which received an overall Excellent CPA score, or a Good score with Excellent for leisure services, have never had to produce a position statement. Library authorities which received an excellent score for their position statement in 2003 do not have to produce one this year.
- 1.2 West Berkshire Library service received a Fair score for the Position Statement in 2003 and therefore has had to produce another one this year. There is no firm information yet as to what will replace the position statement in 2005.
- 1.3 The format of the statement is set down in some detail and is in two parts. The first part asks for details of how the service is addressing the Government's Framework for the Future report and the second for details of the national standards which the service does not meet and how it intends to work towards improving performance against the standards. A separate report on the national standards is submitted to IPF.
- 1.4 In addition the report also details the way in which the library service contributes to the delivery of West Berkshire Council's corporate vision.

Appendices

Appendix A - Copy of Position Statement

Implications

Policy:	As indicated in the report
Financial:	Improvements in the library service can be made within budgets but significant improvements will require financial input
Personnel:	None
Legal:	None
Environmental:	None
Equalities:	Actions detailed in the report are aimed at improving access to services for all and many actions already taken are detailed
Partnering:	Partnership projects are outlined in the plan and others will be developed.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Suggested an additional paragraph on p17 to introduce the report on performance against national standards. I attach a suggested wording below and will include it in the final report if required.

Also suggested adding on p21 regarding the closure of Wash Common library that it "was housed in an almost time expired container".

Select Committee Chairmen: No comments received to date from Cllr Chopping

P&L Committee Chairman: Not applicable

Ward Members: Not applicable

Opposition Spokesperson: No comments received to date from Cllr Chopping

Advisory Members: Not applicable

Local Stakeholders: As indicated in the report

Officers Consulted: Sue Curtis Davison, Corporate Board

Trade Union: Not consulted to date

Suggested wording for additional paragraph on p17 of the position statement.

National Library Standards

West Berkshire Council's Library Service has been working continuously to improve its performance against the national standards and now meets the majority of them. Performance against the standards which are not currently being met has been improving and will continue to do so. Significant improvements have been made against the opening hours standards and, in 2003/4 the service purchased more new stock through improvement budget management and membership of a consortium for stock purchase.

Improvements will continue against the new revised standards and we look forward to the proposed impact measures as a tool for demonstrating the value of library services to the local community.