

1. LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP AND RELATED CHARGES

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Corporate Plan Output: 8.2.0 Libraries	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 1999 Council approved some changes to the membership policy of the library. These changes were subject to the Library consulting other local authorities as to whether they would be prepared to pay the proposed per item charge on behalf of their residents who use the library. No local authority wished to take up this offer.

Library staff have further reviewed the policies and membership categories. Many of the existing categories have arisen through a need to provide materials to groups who may have had difficulty paying for the hire of materials. We have therefore reviewed the charges for audiovisual material and are recommending a reduction in the basic charge for CDs and tapes, and the introduction of a bestseller collection for new and popular materials at a higher rate. This reduction also takes into account some reduction in business and the falling cost of items.

With videos we are also recommending that new and popular videos be purchased for the bestseller collection and that other non-fiction videos be integrated with the book collection and no charge be made.

In summary, the recommendations are:

1. Reduce the membership categories to five, namely:
 - Youth city, 0-18 years inclusive (adopted by Council June 1999)
 - Adult city, 19+ years (adopted)
 - Concession, for those whose access is difficult because of physical or mental disability (adopted)
 - Youth Non-city, 0-18 years inclusive (proposed)
 - Adult Non-city, 19+ years (proposed)

Note: Non-city members pay a per item charge of \$1 for youth, \$2 for Adults, or a subscription of \$100 per annum. All other rights and privileges are as for city members. Youth members pay no extended loan or reserve charges; Concession members have an initial loan period of six weeks and pay no extended loan, reserve or AV charges.

2. Purchase videos, CDs and tapes for the bestseller collections and hire at a charge of \$3 per week. Reduce ordinary CDs and tapes to \$1 per item. Integrate non-fiction videos with the book collections.

Benefits to customers include a simpler joining process, easy to understand conditions of membership and removal of economic barriers for youth use. The reduction in charges for CDs and tapes will ease the impact on Senior Citizens, who have already lost their half-price concession which was agreed to in June 1999.

Additional details are contained in Attachment 1.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the membership categories be reduced to five: Youth City, Adult City, Youth Non-City, Adult Non-City and Concession (as outlined in the body of this report).
 2. That the lending and charging parameters as outlined in Table 1 (refer attachment) be adopted.
 3. That new and popular videos, CDs and tapes be purchased for the bestseller collections and be hired for a charge of \$3 per item per week.
 4. That the price for other CDs and tapes purchased for the general collections be \$1.00 per item (or \$2.00 per double set).
 5. That the Council note with concern the attitudes of neighbouring territorial authorities towards meeting lending costs incurred by their residents at City libraries.