



AINTREE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ADDENDUM

The supplementary information to the business case submitted in June 2013 for the approval of a community library by Sefton Council

Prepared by the Aintree Library Action Group

26th September 2013



Appendices

One: Indicative Budget

Two: ALAG Bank Account Statement

Three: Letter of Commitment from Aintree Parish Council

Four: Letters confirming donations Bleasdale Group

Five: Minute of Melling Parish Council

Six: Fundraising Plan

Seven: Organisational Structure

Eight: Repairs and Maintenance Schedule

1. INTRODUCTION

Aintree Library Action Group (ALAG) submitted a proposal to Sefton Council to take over the operation and management of Aintree Village Library as a Community Library in June 2013. That proposal was assessed as approved at Gateway One.

This Addendum document is prepared to present additional information requested by Sefton Council for assessment at Gateway Two. We are presenting here further information, in particular, to demonstrate a robust financial case for sustained operation. ALAG are supported in this proposal by the Aintree Village Parish Council (Appendix 3), Aintree Ratepayers Association, Melling Parish Council (Appendix 5) and a significant proportion of the community including businesses such as the Bleasdale Group (Appendix 4). We are developing a positive working relationship with the Aintree Community Centre so that provision is not duplicated and resources used across the community to maximum impact and benefit.

Aintree Library has been at the heart of Aintree and Melling for over 50 years and the library is the last council run building in the Aintree and Melling area. The priorities in our proposal are to fully maintain a community library and to further enhance the social value aspects of a community library by providing new services and activities that benefit the local community, for example an internet cafe.

We will be setting up a Limited Company by Guarantee – Aintree Village Centre Ltd - and seeking charitable status. We have a draft organisational structure that sets out roles and responsibilities for managing the services and the building (Appendix 7). This will help significantly with fundraising to ensure the sustainability of the library for the community.

We want to enhance the social value of the library to the community and will achieve this in a variety of ways, including volunteers to staff the library, raising participation, reducing social isolation, increasing social engagement, physical activity, and intergenerational contact. Volunteers will be the lifeblood of the library and we have sufficient volunteers to provide an effective library operation.

The potential of a community library to contribute to the enhanced sustainability of the community, for example, being an attractive place to younger families, benefit Sefton Council in demonstrating good value for money and enhanced economic, social and environmental well-being. Some of these benefits include personal and community well-being, health, inclusion, connection, happiness and empowerment.

This Addendum to the Expression of Interest is based on the stated wishes of the community and local organisations for ALAG to continue to seek approval for the provision of the library services for the parishes of Aintree, Melling and surrounding areas.

2. What we are Offering & What we Require

What we are offering:

The indicative budget (Appendix One) illustrates as follows on sales, costs and profit for a full year, delivering:

a) Profitability:

Turnover/Sales incl. donations	£31,157.20
Costs	£27,139.08
Profit	£4,018.12

b) Solvency:

The current bank balance of £23,550 (see appendix 2) set up for ALAG will be transferred to the Aintree Village Centre Ltd once it is established.

c) Community Support:

We have over 180 hours committed by more than 60 residents which enables us to cover all of the opening hours and the full list of roles and tasks required.

d) Management Expertise:

There are a number of experienced managers who are willing to donate time and expertise to the running of the library.

e) Parish Councils Support: (See appendix 3&5)

f) Business Support (see appendix 4)

What we require:

We require support from the Council in three distinct areas:

- i) The Department have agreed to meet the costs as part of the landlords obligations for a lease, of replacement of guttering and essential electrical work, as detailed in Capita and Survey Reports.
- ii) The Department to confer continued access to the Book Circulation provisions as well as other library resources, as agreed by negotiation.
- iii) An application to the Transition Fund and agreement to cover the costs of the work identified as required during years 0 to 5 (Items of work which must be considered to be undertaken in the very near future) (See Appendix Eight) at a cost of £53,778.42.

3. Summary

Aintree Library Action Group is confident that we have demonstrated a robust and sustainable plan to provide a community library and appropriate social activities for the communities of Aintree, Melling and beyond.

We are continuing with our request that Sefton Council approve the establishment of a Community Library so that the foundation of library services created by the Council over recent years is maintained and further enhanced.