

## New Expenditure Proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

1. <b>Service:</b> Community Services	2. <b>Submitted by:</b> Tricia Pope
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**3. Brief Description of the proposal:** The aim of this proposal is to appoint a project co-ordinator who will work with designated **community access points** in 12 community buildings across South Cambridgeshire. These are expected to be up and running early in 2005 and will consist of one or two computers with broadband access and a range of software suitable to community use. The role of the co-ordinator will be to work with all of the host sites to help them set up user groups, to recruit volunteer "teachers" who will assist very new users and to liaise with other agencies eg village colleges who have the potential to provide outreach IT tutors to the Community Access Points.

A benefit to South Cambs residents is that it will enable them to access our services electronically through software like "See my Data". This meets government requirements to improve services through better use of IT.

4. Costs (£000s)				
Detail	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/8
Salary costs of Project Co-ordinator	Sp26 £27,730	£29,916	30,847	£31,776
Travelling costs (covering South Cambs)	£2,000	£2,000	£2,200	£ 2, 200
Publicity Material for Access Points "©"	£270	£500	750	£1,000
<b>Total Costs:</b>	<b>£30,000</b>	<b>£31,916</b>	<b>£33,797</b>	<b>£34,976</b>

**5. Reason for bid:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Inescapable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Related to one or more of the three priorities

**6. Policy Justification:** This project will improve access to services via e-government. It will also complement the social inclusion agenda by enabling older people and less mobile members of the population to access services locally via Broadband and encouraging access to a wider range of services, including transactions, on the web site. It also contributes to Priority 4 of the Community Strategy which supports good access to services for all sections of the community. By enabling isolated communities to have better access to services through broadband it will improve user satisfaction figures by the time of the three yearly survey in 2006.

**7. Benefit for service users/public:** This post is both about getting improved access and also developing a volunteer base that can support the wider voluntary activity already existing in the villages. A resource that identifies and trains volunteers means that the community access points have the potential to become learning hubs and act as links to the village colleges which themselves are a focal point for service delivery in the villages. A project co-ordinator post can implement economies of scale by working with groups of volunteers that can be plugged into community college initiatives and youth service patches.

<b>8. Impact on Performance Indicators:</b>			
<b>Performance Indicator</b>		<b>Estimated performance in 2004/2005</b>	<b>Estimated improved performance in 2005/2006</b>
<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>		

**9. Implications if not approved:** Without a dedicated officer to work with community access point host sites there is a concern that the potential of these sites will not be fulfilled. Having a dedicated post to develop them as a village resource in a pro-active way can ensure they become a focal point of the villages in which they are sited. Sheltered housing staff and parish councils maybe happy to promote the sites but they will not have the time or resources to recruit and train volunteers. With the right support these volunteers can be the catalysts who draw in the users who will benefit the most from these Community Access Points.