

Appendix 3

Idea Store Metro Concept

The Idea Store Strategy 2009 indicates that a smaller and more flexible generation of Idea Stores is required if the network is to be completed in a way that will allow the service to fully meet the needs of the community and remain within projected revenue budgets. The Idea Store Metro concept builds on the convenience store model developed by major supermarket chains. An Idea Store Metro provision would be smaller in size and would focus on high quality core service offer and high quality service presentation. The proposed model for the new generation Idea Stores is based around a co-location of library and information services (from both Council and local partners such as the PCT), and the concept of the corner shop Idea Store – akin to the ‘Metro’ or ‘Local’ supermarket. Each Idea Store Metro would be tailored to meet the needs of its local area:

- an innovative centre which engages with and belongs to the local community, and sends out a message of inclusion and diversity
- accessibility, inclusion and a sense of welcome
- high profile and visibility
- should contribute to the external public realm as a local community hub
- offer tangible benefits to the local community in the areas of health and employment
- flexible provision for a range of service providers
- centre of information services and the local community, a hub for local community spaces

The Idea Store Metro core offer would include:

- Adult and children’s library with learning activities for all ages
- Surfing space providing free public internet access
- Flexible learning spaces. These will provide both formal and informal learning activities
- Health advice and information services
- Single Access Point or a similar initiative to provide a wide range of joined-up services that help to address the multiple barriers to employment in order to support people into work
- Meeting and activity space for community groups
- Display areas for local artists and exhibitions
- Storage
- Public and staff toilets
- Staff room