

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to Council's decision at its meeting on 23 May 2023 that Administration investigate and present a report on the spatial and operational requirements for a 'Library of Things'.

It summarises the existing City of Adelaide Library of Things resources, those available in Adelaide and North Adelaide through other services/models, and the availability of Library of Things collections in public libraries across metropolitan South Australia.

Community consultation is recommended as a next step to determine the demand for an expansion to the existing Library of Things available within the City of Adelaide.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 12 September 2023 for consideration

THAT THE CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CULTURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves that Administration undertake a community consultation process to determine the demand for a proposed expansion to the existing 'Library of Things' available within the City of Adelaide.
 2. Notes that Council Members will be surveyed as part of this consultation process.
 3. Notes that a report will be prepared for Council that presents the results of the community consultation and recommendations for both resources and operating model/s for a proposed expansion to the existing 'Library of Things'.
 4. Notes that Administration has undertaken a Social Infrastructure Assessment which will be presented to Council in November 2023. That report considers floor space and resource capacity as well as projected population growth and the future needs of the City. A 'Library of Things' could be considered within the outcomes of this report.
 5. Notes that a visual guide to the existing Library of Things resources and collections in the City of Adelaide and some metropolitan Councils in South Australia is provided as Attachment A to Item 4.4 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Community Services and Culture Committee held on 5 September 2023.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

<p>City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan</p>	<p>Strategic Alignment – Thriving Communities</p> <p>Library Services educate, engage and enable people to create, connect and be inspired, through free access to information and ideas, activities and programs, innovative technology and a range of resources which support lifelong learning.</p> <p>Community Centres create a welcoming, connected, and resilient community where there are opportunities to learn, create, lead and enhance wellbeing.</p> <p>Strategic Plan Key Actions: Thriving Communities 1.04 Develop diverse places and facilities with and for young people 1.06 Support volunteerism to build community capacity and connectedness 1.10 Support delivery of welcoming civic infrastructure / third spaces to foster community connections through the adoption of universal and sustainable design principles</p>
<p>Policy</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Consultation</p>	<p>This report recommends that consultation with the community and with Council Members is undertaken to determine community demand for an expansion to the existing Library of Things available within the City of Adelaide and to scope the range of resources sought.</p>
<p>Resource</p>	<p>Staff, volunteer and space requirements will be dependent on the operating model adopted and the range of resources supported.</p>
<p>Risk / Legal / Legislative</p>	<p>Risk and legal implications will be dependent on the operating model adopted and the range of resources supported. For example, a risk assessment will be required for any items added to the collection. To mitigate risk, clear terms and conditions for borrowing will be established. Safe operating procedures will be developed for use of the collection items by customers and also for staff and volunteers in their selection, maintenance, checking and repair. Guidelines used for selecting items will include safety, durability, suitability and value for money. Library collection items are covered by the City of Adelaide's insurance policy and new types of collection items are reported for inclusion as part of regular reporting.</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>A Library of Things provides opportunities to build community connections and assist the community to transition to a circular economy.</p>
<p>23/24 Budget Allocation</p>	<p>No budget allocated.</p>
<p>Proposed 24/25 Budget Allocation</p>	<p>This is dependent on the operating model, range of resources and spatial requirements.</p>
<p>Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset</p>	<p>This is dependent on the operating model, type and durability of any collection items and related infrastructure.</p>
<p>23/24 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>
<p>Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)</p>	<p>This is dependent on the operating model, type and durability of any collection items and related infrastructure.</p>
<p>Other Funding Sources</p>	<p>Not as a result of this report</p>

DISCUSSION

Background

1. This report responds specifically to the Council resolution on 23 May 2023, that:
Administration prepare a report on the spatial and operational requirements for a 'Library of Things' (LoTs) for residents and ratepayers of the City of Adelaide.
2. A LoTs is any collection of objects loaned and any organisation that practices such loaning.
3. The LoT movement is a growing trend in public, academic and special libraries in many countries. There are also non-library organisations that offer LoT, such as tool libraries, toy libraries, community sharing centres, independent non-profits, and individual initiatives.
4. LoTs offer their communities a viable way to share and maintain resources sustainably instead of buying. LoTs contribute to building community connections and the transition to a truly circular economy and reduce our collective impact on the planet.
5. Resources available through LoTs can include arts and crafts equipment and supplies, musical instruments, toys and games, science kits, electronics and technology, specialised kitchen equipment and novelty bakeware, gardening tools and seed libraries, home monitoring tools, recreation equipment, science and maker tools, hand and power tools for home improvement.
6. Items that are useful occasionally, and/or cumbersome to store, such as specialised cookware or niche technology items, are often appreciated by the community.
7. In addition, LoTs can also offer skills sharing sessions, which see volunteers from within the community passing on their skills and knowledge to others.
8. Membership fees can apply to cover operating costs, depending on the type of resources and/or services made available.

Existing Library of Things Resources and Collections in the City of Adelaide

9. The City of Adelaide Libraries and Community Centres currently offer a range of resources and collections which fall within the definition of a LoT. These resources are available to the community either for use in our spaces, to borrow with a library membership, or in the case of our Music Toy Library - through a special fee based annual membership.
 - 9.1. Resources that can be utilised in our facilities: Technologies in art, science, music and design are showcased in a social learning environment including: 3D printing, virtual reality, robotics, podcasting equipment, industry standard software, an embroidery machine, green screen and film equipment, musical keyboards, board games and Lego.
 - 9.2. Resources available for loan: home energy toolkit, STEM kits including robotics, music, 3D pens, filming and virtual reality technology.
 - 9.3. Music Toy Library collection: As Australia's first and only UNESCO City of Music, the City of Adelaide recognises the value of music to the community including developmental benefits to children. A collection of over 200 musical toys and instruments suitable for children aged 0 -5 years old. Opened in April 2022, the Music Toy library has 88 members. The annual membership fee is \$30 / \$15 concession.
[Music Toy Library | City of Adelaide](#)
 - 9.4. A visual guide to the existing LoT resources and collections in the City of Adelaide and some metropolitan Councils in South Australia is provided as **Attachment A**.
10. Other Library of Things resources and services available within Adelaide and North Adelaide include:
 - 10.1. Makerspace Adelaide is a community fabrication workshop providing affordable access to a variety of tools and equipment - from laser cutters and sewing machines to 3D printers and traditional hand tools. Along with access to tools, there are volunteers to help members learn how to safely use the tools and equipment. Annual memberships range from \$406.00 concession to \$675.00.
[Makerspace Adelaide - Think it. Make it. Share it.](#)
 - 10.2. Adelaide Sustainability Centre (ASC) delivered a LoT trial in 2021, where people borrowed sewing machines, camping gear, and other sustainable living items. ASC launched its LoT in 2023, in partnership with Housing Choices SA. Items include camping gear and resources to enjoy the natural environment, as well as items to help explore or reduce environmental impact, such as sewing machines and energy testing kits. Membership cost is a donation per item (minimum \$5) / a pay-what-

you-can model. All donations go towards running the LoT.

[Library of Things Trial | Adelaide Sustainability Centre](#)

- 10.3. ReShare is a way for Australians to lend and borrow household goods or anything with people in the community. A peer-to-peer user platform for the sharing of household goods within the community, people register items to loan, the rental fee and available times and then wait for bookings.
[HomePage - ReShare](#)
- 10.4. Kindershare Australia is a peer-to-peer rental marketplace for local families to hire baby equipment from \$10.
[Hire baby equipment | Kindershare Australia](#)
- 10.5. The Adelaide City Shed opened in 2021 with seed funding support from the City of Adelaide as a community workshop offering a wide range of tools and machinery along with handyman advice and providing a place for a diverse community to repair, create, learn new skills and meet. The Adelaide City Shed will close on 25 September, due to rental and operational costs.
[The Adelaide City Shed - Australian Men's Shed Association \(mensshed.org\)](#)

Existing Library of Things in Public Libraries in Metropolitan South Australia

11. Through the Libraries SA One Card Network, City of Adelaide residents and ratepayers can loan items from all public libraries across South Australia.
12. Libraries of Things are offered by public libraries across Metropolitan South Australia including:
 - 12.1. City of Burnside Library – trialling a LoT collection of kitchen items including cake tins, stockpot, fruit and vegetable slicing set.
[Library of Things - City of Burnside.](#)
 - 12.2. City of West Torrens Library – Toy, games and sports collection, bake and celebrate, equipment for independent living.
[Toy and sports collection City of West Torrens](#)
 - 12.3. City of Onkaparinga Libraries – Sports libraries including sports and recreational equipment.
[Sports Library City of Onkaparinga \(onkaparingacity.com\).](#)
 - 12.4. A visual guide to the existing LoT resources and collections in the City of Adelaide and some metropolitan Councils in South Australia is provided as **Attachment A**.

Spatial and Operational Requirements for an expansion to the existing Library of Things

13. LoTs have been known to exist in anything from a broom cupboard and a mobile shed to shops and shipping containers. They also exist within other premises such as traditional libraries and community spaces.
14. A peer-to-peer rental marketplace is facilitated through a digital platform with no requirement for a physical space.
15. Collections for loan require storage space which is dictated by the type of resources that are held – size, shape and weight. Items can be on open accessible display or in closed storage – the choice will impact space requirements. Room to perform maintenance and repair work is also a factor to consider.
16. Collections which are for onsite use have different spatial requirements. The setup is usually laid out as a workspace where the community can use items or attend learning workshops.
17. Spatial requirements for an expansion to the existing LoT available in the City of Adelaide is dependent on the community need and preferred operating model.
18. Administration has undertaken a Social Infrastructure Assessment which will be presented to Council later this year. That report considers floor space and resource capacity as well as projected population growth and the future needs of our City.
19. City of Adelaide Library and Community Centre spaces are at capacity and would need to reallocate space from other services to accommodate additional items to its existing LoT.
 - 19.1. A small collection of items such as kitchen tools and novelty bakeware could be accommodated on a small shelving unit at the City Library.
 - 19.2. The North Adelaide Community Centre has four garden sheds located outside the North Adelaide Community Centre adjacent to the Community Garden. The shed dimensions are: 316 cm wide by 237 cm deep and 226 cm high. The Community Centre uses three of these garden sheds to store furniture and other items. An agreement is in place for the Community Garden group to make use of the fourth garden shed to store items relevant to their activities. Following a stocktake, clean and assessment of suitability (eg water-tight, security), there may be capacity to accommodate a small

collection of gardening related items as part of a LoT. Photographs of the four garden sheds (exterior and interior views) are provided in **Attachment A**.

- 19.3. An alternative option may be to partner with or support another organisation to provide these resources and service, say for garden tools and equipment. For example, the Inner West Tool Library in Sydney is a volunteer run LoT which received a small grant from the local council to help with set up and is located within a local bowling club. Grant funding was allocated to upskilling volunteers to be qualified to test and tag electrical items, to keep the library safe, as well as buying some good quality key tools.

[IWTL Home \(innerwesttoolibrary.com.au\)](http://innerwesttoolibrary.com.au)

Assessing Community Demand for an expansion to the existing Library of Things

20. City of Adelaide has a residential population of 26,120. Nearly half are aged 18 to 34. In the 2021 census, the three largest household types within the City of Adelaide were lone persons (40.8%), couples without children (25.6%), and group households (11.4%). Ninety nine percent (99%) of dwelling construction over the past 30 years has been in the form of high or medium density apartment buildings. With a forecast growth to 46,364 residents by 2041, there is likely to be a higher density of apartments.
21. While around 35% of South Australians own their own home with no mortgage, more than 20% of South Australian households rely on government support for 90% of their income. Many individuals and households are experiencing cost of living pressures.
22. Community consultation on the demand for an Expanded LoT is proposed as the next step. City ratepayers and users would be surveyed on the type of resources most needed and the frequency of use, operating models, and preferred location.
23. This consultation would also serve to promote the existing LoT available within the City of Adelaide, offered by the Council and other providers. A report sharing the findings and recommendations would be prepared for Council consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Visual Guide to Library of Things Resources and Collections Library of Things

- END OF REPORT -