

Mayor and Cabinet			
Title	Comments of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on the Library Consultation 2015 Update		
Contributors	Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	9 December 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet meeting of the comments and views of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the officer report entitled Library Consultation 2015 Update at the meeting on 30 November 2015.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet are recommended to note the views of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee as set out in this referral.

3. Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 30 November 2015, the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee considered a report entitled Library Consultation 2015 Update. The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- 3.2 The Committee welcomed the contributions from residents, and acknowledges the dedication to and passion for local libraries displayed by the members of the public present at the meeting.
- 3.3 The Committee noted the petition presented by a representative of Defend Torridon Road Library, and noted officers' assurance this would be presented to Mayor and Cabinet as part of their consideration of the outcome of the Library Consultation 2015.
- 3.4 The Committee is aware of the Council's difficult financial situation due to central government cuts to the local government central grant, and is aware of the Council's need to make savings in many areas including the library service. The Committee recommends with reluctance that the proposals for changes to the library service are presented to Mayor and Cabinet unchanged.
- 3.5 The Committee feels that, while these proposals should go ahead, further work needs to be done on the integration of the library provision in Catford into the repurposed ground floor space within Laurence House.
- 3.6 The Committee also strongly recommends that officers engage with the public including via the relevant Local Assemblies to ensure the public's contributions and its commitment to libraries are included in the development of more detailed plans for the libraries.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there may be financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

Background papers

[Library Consultation 2015 Update](#) at the meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on 30 November 2015.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Simone van Elk, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 46441).