

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Response to the referral from the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on the Library and Information Service Annual Report		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	4 October 2017

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report sets out the response to the views and comments of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, arising from discussions held following the officer report entitled Library and Information Service Annual Report at its meeting on 12 July 2017.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

- 2.1. Approves the response from the Executive Director for Community Services to the comments of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee.
- 2.2. Agrees that this report should be forwarded to the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. Shaping the Future, the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy includes the following priority outcomes which relate to the work of the Library and Information Service and reflect the Council's aspirations for the service:
 - Ambitious and Achieving – where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.
 - Empowered and Responsible – where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.
 - Healthy, Active and Enjoyable – where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and wellbeing.
 - Dynamic and Prosperous – where people are part of vibrant localities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond.
- 3.2. The Library and Information Service also contributes to the following Council Priorities:
 - Community leadership and empowerment – developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community.
 - Strengthening the local economy – gaining resources to regenerate key localities, strengthen employment skills and promote public transport.
 - Active, healthy citizens – leisure, sporting, learning and creative activities for everyone.

- 3.3. In December 2016, DCMS updated “Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-2021”, their future policy consultation document. The approach in Libraries Deliver will shape the way in which libraries work in years to come, as they aim to provide services that are:
- available to everyone, free at the point-of-use
 - appropriately resourced and sustainable
 - consistent and responsive to local needs and priorities
 - marketed effectively to promote use by the widest possible audience

4. Background

- 4.1. On 12/7/2017, the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee considered the Library and Information Service Annual Report. Following the Select Committee, a referral was made to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:

4.2. Referral 1

The Committee highlighted the need to properly resource support for the changing role of libraries. In particular, Members acknowledged the growing need for WiFi and WiFi access.

4.3. Response 1

Since the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee meeting on 12 July 2017, a Department Expenditure Panel form for the upgrade of the WiFi in the Hub Libraries at Deptford, Lewisham, and Downham has been approved. This will substantially improve WiFi access in libraries, bringing it in line with customers’ and members’ expectations. It is expected that the upgrade will be complete by the end of December 2017.

4.4. Referral 2

The Committee felt that the promotion, both internally and externally, of news stories connected to libraries, must be done in an accessible way (for example, a greater use of infographics).

4.5. Response 2

The Library and Information Service is working with the Council’s communications team to develop a communication strategy that will benefit from, among other tools, the use of infographics.

4.6. Referral 3

Members emphasised the need to connect the importance of libraries to the work being undertaken by the Poverty Commission.

4.7. Response 3

The Library and Information Service is working with colleagues to align its work to that of the Lewisham Poverty Commission. The Commission is aware of the positive work done by Lewisham’s libraries, as it is of other important community development work across the borough, including the local assemblies programme, Community Connections, and Lewisham Local. Support for people to develop their digital skills has been recognised as

particularly important to the cause of tackling poverty.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There are no specific financial implications arising from this response.

6. Legal Implications

6.1. There are no specific legal implications arising from this response.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications

7.1. There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this response.

8. Equalities Implications

8.1. There are no specific equalities implications arising from this response.

9. Environmental Implications

9.1. There are no specific environmental implications arising from this response.

Background papers

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Referral to Mayor and Cabinet – 12 July 2017

[Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Referral to Mayor and Cabinet](#)

**For further information on this report please contact
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