

Mayor and Cabinet			
Report Title	Comments of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the Library and Information Service		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Healthier Communities Select Committee		
Class	Part 1	Date	18 January 2012

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the officer report "Library and Information service" considered at its meeting on 14 December 2011.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to consider the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee as set out in section three of the report and ask that the Executive Director for Community Services prepares a response.

3. Healthier Communities Select Committee Views

- 3.1 On 14 December 2011, the Healthier Communities Select Committee considered an officer report outlining progress in implementing the changes in library services, agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 11 May 2011. The Committee also took evidence from the three "anchor" organisations, currently supporting Lewisham's 5 community libraries.
- 3.2 The Healthier Communities Select Committee makes the following comments:
- 1) The Committee wishes to record its thanks to the anchor organisations, their staff and many volunteers for all the hard work they have put into developing, and providing, a wide range of resources and activities for local people. The Committee was impressed with the progress already made in engaging local people, delivering improvements in the buildings and in delivering a wide range of activities and support at each location.
 - 2) The Committee notes that the library and information service is still in transition after its recent restructure, and that the community libraries are still developing. The Committee also notes that the anchor organisations consider they would benefit from further developing the supportive working relationships they are building across the three organisations.

- 3) The Committee urges the Mayor and Cabinet to continue to do all it can to keep all of the libraries operating fully, and to continue to support the close working relationships between the anchor organisations and the Council's library and information service.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se, although the financial implications of accepting the Committee's recommendations will need to be considered.

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 and Information Services – Officer Report to Healthier Communities Select Committee (14.12.11)

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Salena Mulhere, Scrutiny Manager (0208 3143380), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee (0208 3149327).