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Presentation at Meeting – Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee – 3.11.22 – Item 04 Library Service Update

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Library and Information Service Update

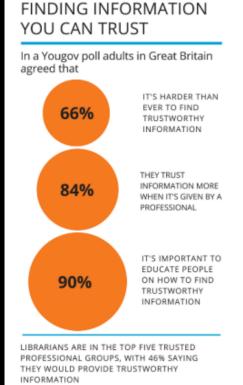Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee
3 November 2022

Background

- The Lewisham Model – hubs and community libraries

- Money well spent – cost per person in Lewisham is £10

- The last full year of "normal" operations libraries delivered
  - Visits   2.2 million
  - Issues   715,778
  - Enquiries   ca. 250,000
  - Events   1,040

- Increased trust in libraries nationally

Libraries are a resource for the council and for residents

Successes

- Reopening post Covid and gradual increase in opening hours
- Launch of the new Catford Library
- London Borough of Culture - StoryTrails
- Equalities & diversity – BHM
- BIPC Local

Potential

- Collaboration within
  - Economy Jobs and Partnerships
    - BIPC Local, Business Support
  - Children and Young People
    - Making it Real
  - Housing
    - Housing options
  - Customer Services
    - DigiZones
  - Public Health
    - Warm Welcomes

- Collaboration outside
  - Community Library partners
  - British Library
  - The Reading Agency
  - The Library Consortium

Libraries are a resource for the council and for residents

Critical factors

- Buildings   Lewisham Library
  - LUF bid and plan B

- Finance   Decreasing resources across the council
  - Further savings required

- Staffing   Changes in organisational structures
  - Opportunity to review cross directorate deliverables

- ICT   Infrastructure development
  - Business Case for invest to save being considered

Libraries are a resource for the council and for residents

What next?

- Lewisham Library
A decision is required asap

- ICT
how can we support the digital needs of residents

- Opening hours
If savings are delivered through reductions, how do we decide when to optimise when we are open for existing users and potential new ones? Needs to be done before March 23

- Supporting the community libraries
Can we do this through Warm Welcomes

- How do we embed the Service as a resource for council and residents