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

The public are welcome to attend our committee meetings. However, occasionally, committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of reports can be made available in additional formats upon request.

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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

CILIP The library and information association

FINDING INFORMATION YOU CAN TRUST

In a Yougov poll adults in Great Britain agreed that

- 66% IT'S HARDER THAN EVER TO FIND TRUSTWORTHY INFORMATION
- 84% THEY TRUST INFORMATION MORE WHEN IT'S GIVEN BY A PROFESSIONAL
- 90% IT'S IMPORTANT TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ON HOW TO FIND TRUSTWORTHY INFORMATION

LIBRARIANS ARE IN THE TOP FIVE TRUSTED PROFESSIONAL GROUPS, WITH 46% SAYING THEY WOULD PROVIDE TRUSTWORTHY INFORMATION

Join CILIP and build your skills as a trusted information professional.
Be part of your profession - www.cilip.org.uk/join

In order to register surveys of 2016 adults in GB (surveyed Jul 11-20, in 2016). Full results: www.cilip.org.uk/information-centre



Successes

Libraries are a resource for the council and for residents

- 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