Mayor and Cabinet			
Title	Comments of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on DBS checks for library staff.		
Contributors	Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee	Item No.	8
Class	Part 1	Date	13 July 2016

### 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 savings programme update at its meeting on 4 July 2016.

#### 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 and ask the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to provide a response.

### 3. Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 11 May 2016, the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee considered a report entitled Library savings programme update. The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- 3.2 The Committee was advised that the Council's library staff were not required to undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, based on advice from the Council's Human Resources department. Partner organisations that would be approved to manage the community-led libraries would also not be required to perform DBS checks on their staff and volunteers.
- 3.3 The Committee was concerned about this viewpoint, as school governors and some staff responsible for managing community centres were required to undergo DBS checks. The Committee noted that library staff often worked with children and could at times find themselves alone with a child.
- 3.4 The Committee therefore requests that outside legal advice is sought on whether Council staff, staff paid by partner organisations and volunteers working in libraries would need to undergo DBS checks.

#### 4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there may 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**

<u>Library savings programme update</u> at the meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on 4 July 2016.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Simone van Elk, Scrutiny Manager (0208 3146441).