

**MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**16 May 2005**

Councillors \*Meehan, (Chair) Herbie Brown, \*Harris, \*Hoban, \*Newton and \*Santry.

\*Members present.

Observer: Councillor Engert

**LAC15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None received.

**LAC16. MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004 be confirmed and signed.

**LAC17. 2004/2005 PERFORMANCE REPORT (HIGHLIGHT)** (Report of the Head of Libraries, Archives & Museum Service) - Agenda item 6)

We received a highlight of the 2004/2005 performance report, informing Members of the continued performance improvement of the Libraries, Archives & Museum Service during 2004/05.

We noted that in the last financial year, Haringey Libraries had continued to improve, building on the foundations laid and successes achieved since 2001. We noted that the Libraries were continuing to improve against both national and local performance indicators and assessments.

We noted that in September 2004, Haringey Libraries met 21 of the 28 Public Library Standards, up from 14 in 2003/2004. Further improvement was likely following the revision of standards, and a user satisfaction survey due to be carried out in 2005. We noted that the Libraries' required annual position statement was rated as three – 'good' – on a scale of one to four by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. In the Stock Quality Health Check, Haringey achieved a score of 4 ('good') out of 5 recognising its improved stock fund provision. Haringey also continued to improve against national and local performance indicators as set out in the Council's 2004/2005 Best Value plan.

We noted the continuing rolling programme of refurbishment and facilities improvements, including:

- Complete refurbishment and re-design of Marcus Garvey Library
- Refurbishment and re-shelving of Wood Green Central Library, Ground Floor
- Transformation of waste land into community garden at St Ann's Library
- Installation of additional lighting and security measures at St Ann's
- Improving disability access

The application of new technology enabled Haringey to be the first London library authority to introduce 'wi-fi' internet access in all service points, and introduced the facility to reserve books on-line. We noted that key developments in the coming year working towards Haringey becoming an excellent library authority included:

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- The introduction of Radio Frequency Identity technology at two main libraries, allowing self-service withdrawal, renewal and return, and the subsequent freeing up of staff time
- The rolling out of a strong reader development programme to encourage all users to become active members.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That we note the report.

**LAC18. LIBRARY STRATEGY** (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Access) - Agenda item 7)

We received the revised libraries strategy and noted the results of the consultation exercise with Library users on the future of libraries in the borough. We noted the continued improvements of the library service, with a dramatic rise in visitors of over 100% to in excess of 2 million since 2001.

We also noted the Service Mission, as promoted in the national context, and Haringey's steps to promote this.

- Promoting books, learning and reading
- Facilitating digital citizenship
- Fostering community and civic values

We noted the site options for further improving Haringey's library service, including feasibility studies for possible expansion of the Muswell Hill and Coombes Croft sites. Member requested that the same policy of investigating all available options be applied to both sites.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That we note the report.
2. That the report to the Executive include a recommendation from the Committee that feasibility studies for improvements at Muswell Hill and Coombes Croft libraries, should go ahead without conditions so that all options are investigated.

**LAC19. LIBRARIES STOCK POLICY – PROVISION FOR SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES** (Report of the Head of Libraries, Archives and Museum Service – Agenda Item 8)

We received this report to inform us of the basis on which stock was purchased to meet the needs of communities throughout the borough.

We learned that Haringey's Stock Policy states that we will "endeavour to provide stock to meet the needs of all communities", based on:

- Characteristics of library use
- Characteristics of the catchment population
- The needs of particular communities

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We noted that in addition to the widespread provision of English language material, attempts were made to match collections in major ethnic languages with the appropriate geographical areas of the borough. Considerations of other factors, such as the ageing population, were also taken into account. The report set out figures on the use of Haringey Libraries by ethnic group, as well as information on library catchment areas broken down by age and ethnicity.

We noted that an increased budget allocation enabled Libraries to use the provided data to fine tune the details of its stock policy, increasing provision for under-represented groups.

We noted the lack of provision in the White Hart Lane area. Councillor Santry (as a White Hart Lane councillor) agreed to meet with the Head of Libraries to discuss this issue further.

We noted the misprint in Table 3 of the report (page 6), the figure for Ages 26-35 at Highgate Library of '367' was incorrect. Officers agreed to provide the correct figure to the committee in due course.

**RESOLVED:**

That we note the report.

**LAC20. A.O.B.**

Members discussed problems of litter, in particular outside Alexandra Park library and from secondary school pupils. The Head of Libraries assured Members that discussions were continuing with regards to resolving this problem.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Officers agreed to liaise with the 'Better Haringey' team and the new Executive Member for the Children's Service to further explore solutions.
2. The committee offered its congratulations to David Lammy MP, who had just been appointed to the new position of Minister for Libraries.
3. In his final meeting in the Chair, Councillor Meehan placed on record his thanks to officers and staff for all their hard work during the past year.

**Cllr George Meehan**

**Chair**