

**MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
29 NOVEMBER 2005**

Councillors *Reith, (Chair) H. Brown, Dobbie *Harris, *Newton, Oatway and *Santry.

*Members present.

LAC21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence received Councillors Brown and Oatway.

LAC22. MINUTES:

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th May 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chair, Councillor Reith.

LAC23. PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE STANDARDS (Report of the Head of Libraries, Archives & Museum Service) - Agenda item 6)

We received the report which summarised the Public Library Service Standards and Public Library Impact Measures and set out the levels of adherence achieved by the Council and the initiatives put in place to ensure continued compliance with the Measures. The report highlighted the creditable performance of the improvement in the Haringey Library Service in that the Library Service registered a compliance score of 8/10 whilst some London Councils only recorded compliance scores of 3/10.

We further noted the observations of the Head of Libraries, Archives & Museum Services on the processes being investigated to ensure continued compliance with the Government's guidelines and these would be reported upon to future meetings.

RESOLVED: That the report and the way forward outlined within the report be noted.

LAC24. LIBRARIES PROGRESS REPORT (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Access) - Agenda item 7)

We received updated report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Access) which set out the continuing improvement of the Libraries Service for the period June – August 2005. We noted that as part of the continuing improvement to the service that the Haringey libraries were now the fifth busiest in the London area and that Haringey was the only authority able to record such improvements and progress in the delivery of the service. In receiving this report we noted that in October over 200,000 people visited the libraries and that this was a record for the Council. We also noted that no other Council service attracted such numbers.

We were advised of some of the initiatives contributing to this turn around in performance such as the Black History event that had resulted in Haringey receiving the Best Local Authority award. The Trevor McDonald event had been a tremendous success resulting in even greater public attendance. We were pleased to note possible future events, such as "Islam Awareness Week" as well as the planned introduction of public art within Libraries. Reports would be submitted to a future meeting on possible participation "Big on Obesity" "Cessation of Smoking" and "Mental Health Week". The provision of a crèche and play scheme together with a model

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farm yard, funded from Early Years, had proved popular and had resulted in even greater usage of the Wood Green childrens' Library.

In addition we noted the operational improvement in Marcus Garvey library with the introduction of self-issue. This had involved tagging of all books and thus a consequential reduction in the theft of library books as well as the freeing up of staff resources to allow staff to give more time to advising the public. We were pleased to receive details of other measures being considered to further enhance the Library Service such as a child library in Northumberland Park and developments with the Orthodox Jewish community in South Tottenham and the taking of the service outside of libraries and into the community and even the possibility of a practice music library. The programme to modernise the computer systems was continuing and a wide range of refurbishment projects such as at Hornsey Library were being pursued. Finally we were advised research into the possible introduction of measures to further improve services such as providing facilities within the White Hart Lane Area, even more comprehensive services for the elderly and those living in the more remote areas of the Borough and the appointment of a cultural officer.

RESOLVED:

1. That we note the report.

Cllr Lorna Reith

Chair