

Council: 7 November 2006

Administration Policy Item: Cllr. John Marshall

21st Century Libraries

Council believes that Libraries contribute to the education and well being of Barnet's population, but need to be modernised to continue to serve our residents effectively.

Council notes that, increasingly, Libraries are not only seen as a place to borrow books, but also a centre for the local community, an access point to the internet and local information, and a facility of the "ipod" generation.

Council believes that Barnet Libraries must:

- Be close to retail centres
- Be close to transport nodes
- Make comprehensive use of modern technology
- Free up staff time from admin so they can concentrate on advising customers
- Offer comprehensive advice on a range of Barnet Council Services

Council accordingly instructs Cabinet to develop a library service for Barnet that will make our libraries fit for the 21st century.