

Council, 12 April 2011

Item 4.1: Administration Policy Item – Councillor Robert Rams

Strategic Library Review

Council is proud of its Libraries which are the centres of local life in the Borough and an invaluable community resource.

However, we believe that investment and renewal is urgently needed in the facilities, to bring them up to the standard that residents expect in the 21st century and which was identified by LBB's consultation.

Therefore, Council commends the Strategic Library Review, which proposes the following, subject to further consultation and EIA:

- Buying more books
- Longer opening hours
- Better customer access to Council services
- Better access for children (all primary school children will be members of a library)
- Better services for the vulnerable
- More self-issue
- More WIFI and online services (including e-books)
- Plans to share Libraries' back-office
- Expanding Libraries
- New events and extra community use
- Exploring a paid-for book delivery scheme

Council notes that the plans involve a degree of re-provision, but is pleased that the Strategy does not involve the wholesale closure of libraries unlike many Councils in London.

Cabinet is therefore requested to forge ahead with these proposals, taking into account the second round of consultation and the EIA.