

Appendix F – Community Leadership & Libraries Committee

Table 1 – Committee Decisions

Date of Decision	Decision	Summary of Decision	Legal Implications, Resources Implications, Other Implications (e.g. risk, equalities, consultation, etc.), Government directions or guidance
26/03/20	Temporary amendments to the library services by closing library buildings to the public.	<p>Following the Prime Minister’s announcement on Friday 20th March directing many public services to close the Director of Children’s Services, in consultation with Chair of the Communities Leadership & Libraries committee, the Leader of the council and Chief Executive, a decision was taken to close all library buildings. This took effect from 10am Saturday 21st March. The library service offer during the period of restriction is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Expanding the collection of e-books, eAudiobooks and other e-content available for loan. 2) Delivering a range of activities online via YouTube – so far we have run several rhymetimes and have recorded some Local History Talks. 3) Developing lists to support reading, learning and activities at home. These have been particularly focussed on children 4) Producing a regular newsletter for schools about resources they can use both for students at school and pass on to students at home. 5) Introducing an online homework/ study help email service 	<p>s.7 Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 requires local authorities to run a comprehensive and efficient library service.</p> <p>Change in legislation: Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2000</p> <p>Libraries are included in regulations (Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 which came into force 1pm on 26 March. These Regulations require those providing library services to cease to provide the service except by way or deliveries, through a website, telephone or post, to close any premises not required for the remote part of the service and to cease to admit the public to any buildings still being used for the remote part of the service.</p> <p>Officers had regard to the public sector equality duty when coming to this decision and felt that the temporary closure was proportionate in the circumstances.</p> <p>The decision and the service offer, during the period of restriction, have been discussed with an official from the Department of Culture Media and Sport and no objections were made.</p> <p>Some groups are more negatively impacted by the decision and the offer has been designed to reach as wide a demographic as possible and in particular; families with young children, young</p>

		<p>6) Extended all loans and removed fines</p> <p>7) Calling Home Library Service customers to keep in touch with them and pass on any needs identified</p>	<p>people who are vulnerable and would ordinarily receive a community service through the home library.</p> <p>Library staff have been redeployed into other roles to support the covid response. There will be some financial loss due to loss of income from, for example, room hire and activity charges. Savings associated with reduced building costs will be minimal.</p>
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Table 2 – Officers Decisions

Date of Decision	Decision	Summary of Decision	Legal Implications, Resources Implications, Other Implications (e.g. risk, equalities, consultation, etc.), Government directions or guidance
26/3/20	Hendon Town Hall – Building Access	Closure of Hendon Town Hall to members of the public	<p>Hendon Town Hall is normally open to the public to attend council meetings, to attend the registry office and for marriages.</p> <p>Council meetings are not taking place at present and will be conducted by remote meetings during the emergency period. The registry office is operating in accordance with new legislative requirements. There are restrictions in place under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020 preventing movement of people and public gathering, which prevent marriages from taking place during the emergency period.</p>
26/3/20	Cease Citizenship Ceremonies	Cease conducting citizenship ceremonies.	The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020 prevent movement of people and public gathering except in specific circumstances during the emergency period. This prevents physical citizenship ceremonies taking place.
03/04/20	Registration Services	Defer registration of births and marriages, except in exceptional circumstances	The GRO gave guidance on 24 March, following the Prime Minister’s advice about the public staying at home. This advised that birth registrations and receipt of notices of marriage should be deferred during the stay at home period. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020 does set out exceptions to the restrictions where a person has a reasonable excuse, including compliance with a legal obligation. However, as parents are able to apply for child benefit in advance of a birth certificate and most new parents will not wish to leave their homes at this time to register a birth, the Council has deferred birth registration for the time being. This is being kept under review as further guidance is received. At present, it is not possible to register

			<p>a birth by telephone, however if legislation is passed to permit this, the registration service will take steps to implement this change to allow remote registration of births. The Council is providing information to confirm that new parents can apply for child benefit without a birth certificate.</p> <p>The majority of people who had either planned a wedding or were about to give notice of marriage, have put their plans on hold during the current situation. For this reason, the registration service has deferred receipt of notices of marriage and is not conducting marriage ceremonies to comply with the above Regulations, which restrict public gatherings. In exceptional circumstances, such as an end of life marriage, the registration service will advise on options to support a couple.</p>
26/03/20	Registration of Deaths	Register deaths and still births via telephone	<p>Schedule 13 Part 1 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 states that A qualified informant who is required under the 1953 Act to give information about a death or still-birth to the registrar may give the information to the registrar—</p> <p>.(a) by telephone, or (b) by any other methods specified in guidance issued by the Registrar General, if the informant is unable to attend before the registrar in person.</p> <p>There are other changes made to the documentary requirements to simplify the process of registration of deaths.</p>

07.04.20	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference	Change the Domestic Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference meeting to virtual weekly meeting (from monthly in person meeting). To enable the Domestic Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference process to continue to operate to ensure multi-agency oversight and risk management of high risk and complex DV cases.	There is no statutory requirement to convene MARAC or to meet on a set basis, however the process allows agencies to share information and to make decisions to protect individuals at risk of domestic violence. Agency representatives are able to discuss cases on a remote basis, to comply with social distancing guidance. The meetings are being convened more frequently to take account of the increased risk of domestic violence during the current restrictions.
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