



## Community Leadership and Libraries Committee

Date: 18 November 2020

<b>Title</b>	<b>Re-provision of Hendon Public Library, Local Studies and Archives and the re-siting of the School Libraries Resources Service as part of Hendon Hub development</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chairman of Community Leadership and Libraries Committee
<b>Wards</b>	Hendon
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
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### Summary

This report sets out proposals for the re-provision of Hendon Library and Local Studies Centre and the relocation of the School Libraries Resources Service (SLRS). This project forms part of the Hendon Hub development programme.

The proposed new library will be located directly opposite the current building on the corner of Edgerton Gardens on the site presently occupied by the Town Hall car park.

The relocation of the library in Hendon into a modern, fit-for-purpose building will significantly improve the service delivered to the local community, facilitating the provision of a broader library offer. It will bring the library in Hendon into line with other new facilities such as Finchley Church End and Colindale libraries.

The internal layout and design and the range of services to be delivered from the new library will be informed by a comprehensive engagement programme which will include:

- Information and displays of plans, layouts and proposed services
- Surveys.
- Drop-in information sessions and presentations in the library and in community locations.
- Co-creation sessions with local schools and other community organisations.

It is anticipated that the existing library will be vacated in October 2021, subject to scheme approval and associated planning consent. The new library is expected to be delivered in Autumn/ Winter 2023. In the interim period a temporary library facility will be provided close to the existing site on the corner of the Burroughs/ A41. All timelines are provisional and potentially subject to change.

The Hendon Hub development programme including the re-provision of Hendon Library will be considered for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee on 8 December 2020.

## **Recommendations**

1. That the Committee note and comment on the proposal to re-provide Hendon library as part of the new Hendon Hub development and to relocate the School Libraries Resources Service (SLRS).

### **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals for the re-provision of Hendon Library and Local Studies Centre and the relocation of the School Libraries Resources Service (SLRS). This project forms part of the Hendon Hub development programme.
- 1.2 The current Hendon library site comprises three services: the Public Library, the Local Studies Centre and the School Libraries Resources Service. These combined services occupy the entirety of the ground floor and a secure storage area on the first-floor mezzanine. In addition, there are two 10ft storage containers located at the rear of the building. These house overflow materials from the School Libraries Resources Service (SLRS).
- 1.3 Hendon Library currently holds just over 21,000 items for loan and reference. In 2019/20 a total of 62,402 items were issued to borrowers at this site, 55% being books and other resources for children. In addition, the Local Studies Centre manages a further 23,000 accessions of archival items relating to the history of the borough including photographs, rate books, maps and Local Authority records.

- 1.4 The School Libraries Resources Service (SLRS) supports teaching and learning in subscribing Barnet schools by providing resource collections, INSET courses and professional library advice. The service holds circa 94,000 items (books, artefacts, images and other learning resources) and issues around 9,000 collections or 57,000 items per year. At present 41 Barnet schools subscribe to this service.
- 1.5 The proposed new public library will be located in a ground floor building on the corner of Edgerton Gardens, diagonally opposite the current library on the plot presently used as the library/town hall car park.
- 1.6 There is insufficient space in the proposed new building to accommodate the School Libraries Resources Service (SLRS) and there is no operational necessity for this service to be co-located with the public library. Instead a suitable alternative location has been sought for this service. A site in High Barnet (Mays Lane) previously occupied by the Quinta Club is currently under consideration.
- 1.7 Once vacated the current library building will form part of the Hendon Hub redevelopment and is proposed as the location for the Middlesex University Business School.

## **2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Re-provision of Hendon public library will significantly improve the library service provided from this site.
- 2.2 The recent evaluation of the Library Service by the Activist Group recommended using development opportunities such as this to enhance library facilities in the borough. The proposed relocation will deliver this recommendation.
- 2.3 Relocation to a modern, fit-for-purpose building will facilitate the provision of a broader and enhanced library offer. Many successful new library buildings have included flexible spaces that can be used by a range of council and community partners to deliver additional services such as technology sessions, adult and community education and career support. Some successful library based examples include: [Fab Lab Devon](#) in Exeter Library and [Glass Box](#) in Taunton Library which have incorporated technology 'Makerspaces' and The Explore Centre in York which includes a Community Hub.
- 2.4 Moreover, a new building will give the library enhanced visibility and 'curb-appeal' increasing the service's ability to inspire and attract new customers not already familiar with the library offer.
- 2.5 The Local Studies and Archives Service will remain alongside the public library. Located on a mezzanine floor, this service will be more accessible to

the public. The improved environment will also enable the service to work towards National Archives accreditation.

- 2.6 There are also significant benefits for the School Libraries Resources Service in relocating to a new venue. Most specifically the current site is too small to accommodate the all service's resources necessitating the use of two storage containers and currently prohibiting any expansion of the service to additional schools.

### 3 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 Timescales for the relocation of the library are governed by the overall Hendon Hub development programme. A high-level draft programme of works is outlined below:

New Hendon Library considered by CLLC	18 November 2020
Hendon Hub Project (including Hendon Library considered by Policy and Resources Committee	8 December 2020
SPD consultation	December 2020 – February 2021
Library Service and Local Studies vacate current building	October 2021
Temporary Hendon Library opens	October 2021
SLRS move to new permanent location	October 2021
New Hendon Library completed	Autumn/ Winter 2023

It should be noted that all timescales are potentially subject to change and require scheme approval and planning consent.

- 3.2 The Hendon Hub programme schedule requires the Library Service to vacate the current building prior to completion of the new library. In the interim period a temporary library facility will be provided whilst the new library building is under construction. The preferred location for this temporary site is the corner of The Burroughs and the A41 on a plot currently used as a car park. This will be a modular building and will replicate the range of resources (adult, teen child) available in the current site, with a particular focus on children and families. The temporary library will continue to provide PC access and a community room for hire and study. Self-service entry technology will not be incorporated into the temporary library due to cost, but will be provided at the permanent facility. Any temporary reduction

in overall opening hours will be mitigated by additional use of the Mobile Library.

- 3.3 Temporary storage space in Middlesex University is currently being investigated for Local Studies Centre resources. Public access to these resources will be provided at the temporary library by appointment as is the current practice.
- 3.4 The Hendon Hub project including the re-provision of Hendon Library will be considered for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee on 8 December 2020.

## **4 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **4.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 4.1.1 Provision of a new, modern library building directly contributes to the following objectives within the 2020-24 Barnet Corporate Plan:
- Investing in community facilities to support a growing population.
  - Maintaining our 21st century libraries.
- 4.1.2 Examples from elsewhere such as the Explore Centre in York, demonstrate how well-designed library buildings can contribute to the delivery of broader corporate and community objectives in addition to traditional library outcomes. These principals will underpin the design of the new library and its services.
- 4.1.3 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Library Service are detailed within the Community Leadership and Libraries Delivery Plan and include the number of physical visits made to libraries, the number of items loaned and attendance at library events. Experience demonstrates that library usage can increase significantly following relocation to new, modern facilities. For example, loans at New Barnet Library increased by 44% following the move into the new leisure centre facility in September 2019.

### **4.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 4.2.1 The new library, temporary facility and the relocation of the School Libraries and Resources Service will be funded as part of the Hendon Hub redevelopment programme. This includes all IT infrastructure and fixtures and fittings and associated project management.
- 4.2.2 It is envisaged, that some library subject matter expertise (additional to the overall management of the programme) will be required in both design and delivery phases at an estimated cost of £30,000.

### **4.3 Social Value**

- 4.3.1 The Public Service (Social Value) Act (2012) places a duty upon those commissioning public services to pay due regard to economic, environmental and social well-being in the procurement of public service contracts.
- 4.3.2 Public libraries deliver significant social value with outcomes related to culture, health and well-being, education and learning and social cohesion. The new building and expanded offer will enable the Council to deliver increased social value through its libraries.

### **4.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 4.4.1 The Public Libraries and Museums Act (1964) provides a general duty for library authorities. Section 7 makes it a duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for the borrowing of books and other materials. The duty is owed to all persons desiring to make use of the service whose residence or place of work is within the borough and those who are undergoing full time education within the borough.
- 4.4.2 Provision of an improved public library space within the Hendon area will ensure that the Council continues to meet its statutory obligations in respect of the 1964 Act.
- 4.4.3 S149 of the Equalities Act 2010) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. A more accessible public library and local studies service will assist the council in meeting this duty.
- 4.4.4 The Council's Constitution (Article 7) sets out the terms of reference for this Committee, which includes responsibility for libraries. It is important, therefore, that the Committee has the opportunity to consider proposals for the new library facility.

### **4.5 Risk Management**

- 4.5.1 Not receiving this report would present a risk of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee not being able to discuss, debate and comment on the proposal before it is considered by the Policy and Resources Committee in December.
- 4.5.2 There is a risk that residents within the Hendon area may object to the proposed move of the library. Detailed consultation and engagement will be undertaken with residents and library users both as part of the broader Hendon Hub proposals and in relation specifically to the library and its design and to the services to be delivered from the proposed new site.

- 4.5.3 There is also a risk that planning permission may not be granted. If the project to provide a new Hendon Library building does not proceed then the benefits outlined in section 2 cannot be realised.
- 4.5.4 Failure to move out of the current building may put the broader Hendon Hub programme at risk.

## **4.6 Equalities**

- 4.6.1 Pursuant to section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010, the Council has a public-sector duty to have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act. It must advance equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without and promote good relations between those with a protected characteristic and those without. The relevant 'protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
- 4.6.2 A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken both for the temporary and permanent relocations of the library.
- 4.6.3 The proposed site for the permanent library is opposite the current site and thus the move is not expected to have a negative impact upon any protected groups. This proposal will create improved, more accessible library spaces within the Hendon area and offer significantly upgraded facilities for the local community.
- 4.6.4 There may be some short-term negative impacts whilst the library operates from its temporary location. These will be mitigated as much as possible via use of the Home and Mobile Library Service. Other mitigating measures will be investigated in line with the development of the EIA.

## **4.7 Corporate Parenting**

- 4.7.1 In 2016 the government developed a set of corporate parenting principles. These are:
- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people.
  - to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
  - to consider the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people.
  - to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
  - to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes,

for those children and young people.

- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work.
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

4.7.2 The library service supports these principles by providing a wide range of resources, services and activities for all children and young people in Barnet as well as specialist library cards for practitioners such as foster carers and social workers. The move to a new library will ensure that this work can continue in an improved environment, with the potential for new initiatives targeted at reaching Looked After Children.

## **4.8 Consultation and Engagement**

4.8.1 The development of the Hendon Hub project will be accompanied by a comprehensive programme of public consultation. The relocation of Hendon Library will be included within this.

4.8.2 In addition the Library Service will undertake a programme of public engagement to shape the design of the library space and the services to be delivered from the site. This engagement will include:

- Information and displays of plans, layouts and proposed services
- Surveys
- Drop-in information sessions and presentations in the library and in community locations
- Co-creation sessions with local schools and other community organisations.

## **4.9 Insight**

4.9.1 Insight data regarding the current use of Hendon Library alongside local demographic data will be used to inform both the temporary and permanent libraries. This will include but is not limited to:

- Borrower breakdown by type (to include protected characteristics)
- Issues and holdings by item type.
- Visits data (where available) and attendance at events.
- Census data.
- Poverty, health and education indices.

4.9.2 Existing data will be supplemented by feedback and data produced throughout the public engagement process.

4.9.3 The above insight data sets will also be used to develop an Equality Impact Assessment for both temporary and permanent facilities.

## **5. Background Papers**

Evaluation of Libraries Transformation – Activist Group Report, February 2020

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g9961/Public%20reports%20pack%2011th-Jun->