

Skills Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission 9th January 2023 Item 4 – Future of Libraries and Hackney’s Library Strategy	Item No 4
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Outline

Public libraries are a statutory service under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. The Act requires library authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient service for people who live, work or study within the authority area. In Hackney there are eight libraries, situated within a one-mile walking distance for all residents. The Council’s Executive made a commitment to the borough’s eight libraries and proposes to retain, and in many instances to improve Hackney’s libraries.

The Council aims is to make sure that libraries can cater for the changing demands and needs of local people. In response a libraries service review was launched in April 2021 called Our Libraries. The review of Hackney library services facilitated an extensive conversation about libraries with residents and stakeholders to measure the satisfaction levels of the current service provision and identify the local needs and aspirations for the future of the libraries service.

The new Libraries Strategy was developed in response to the engagement with 8,450 residents, a Task and Finish Group of elected Members, consultation with library staff and strategic conversations with relevant cross-Council departments.

The strategy aims to drive the service forward as a strong collaborator - promoting inclusive, flexible, and creative spaces across all libraries that will be utilized by residents as hubs for community wellbeing, cultural development and digital inclusion and will provide access to reading and lifelong learning opportunities. The Council proposes to explore future options for extended opening hours and study spaces as well as capital investment to renovate and repair library buildings or, in the instance of Woodberry Down, to develop options for a new library provision.

The draft Library strategy and associated service transformation vision, objectives and service model was adopted by Cabinet in October 2022.

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to review the Council’s implementation plan for the library strategy, consider the future plans for library spaces and workforce changes. This item will provide the Commission with information about the library sector, Hackney Council’s vision, the unions views and the views of young people. The information will cover:

- trends across the library sector, innovative and successful approaches and the role of libraries in modern society.
- an overview of Hackney’s new library strategy, vision and proposed implementation plan
- the union’s view about the library strategy

- an overview of young people and young adult's views in relation to Hackney's library services.

Reports in the agenda:

To support this discussion the following reports and presentation are provided for background information.

- LBH Presentation and following reports:
 - Appendix 1 Hackney Library Strategy
 - Appendix 2 Our Libraries Report
 - Appendix 3 Public Engagement Report.
- Libraries Connected Reports:
 - Essential Part of local recovery
 - Public Librarians and Literacy recover
 - Briefing note on cost of living crisis.
- Unison Presentation.

Invited Attendees

Libraries Connected

- Isobel Hunter, Chief Executive

London Borough of Hackney

- Polly Cziok, Strategic Director, Engagement, Culture and Organisational Development
- Petra Roberts, Strategic Service Head for Culture, Libraries and Heritage

Unison

- Matthew Paul, Joint Branch Secretary

Hackney Young Futures

- Thierry, HYF Representative
- Luyanda, HYF Representative
- Ceylan, HYF Representative
- Carsal, HYF Representative
- Silvia Perin, Strategic Delivery Officer • Policy and Strategic Delivery
- Reece Lukeman Young Futures Management Apprentice • Policy & Strategic Delivery
- Mia Guercini, Management Trainee • Policy and Strategic Delivery

Action

The Commission is asked to note the presentations and ask questions.