
LIBRARY POSITION STATEMENT

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker, Education Portfolio
Responsible Director - Geoff Pennington, Director of Education**

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members' endorsement for the Library Position Statement.

Information and Analysis

2. Following the announcement of the 2002 Annual Library Plan assessments, such plans were discontinued as part of the Local Government White Paper implementation process. The plans were succeeded by Library Position Statements.
3. The Library Position Statement shows how the Local Authority intends to shape and deliver the library services in line with the themes in *Framework for the Future*, and is intended to give an indication of current levels of service.
4. All authorities have also been required to submit information about their achievement of the public library standards as at March 31st 2004, and to provide information about these achievements in the Position Statement.
5. The Position Statement is a requirement of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and is a statutory document
6. In line with the assessment of last years Position Statement and the current guidelines, the information is mostly presented in tables and bullet points, rather than in narrative form.

Outcome of Consultation

7. No consultation has been undertaken in producing this position statement.

Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

10. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

11. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Key Decisions

12. This report constitutes a key decision for the Cabinet

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that the Library Position Statement be approved.

Reasons

14. The recommendations are supported because the Library Position Statement needs formal approval before it will be accepted by the DCMS .

**Geoffrey Pennington
Director of Education**

Background Papers

Framework for the Future, Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2002

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