

**EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CULTURE, TOURISM & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER AND 25 SEPTEMBER 2008****FOR GENERAL RELEASE****CULTURE, TOURISM & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING****4.00PM 13 NOVEMBER 2008****COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Randall (Chairman); Davis, Drake (Deputy Chairman), Harmer-Strange, Kennedy, Marsh and Older

**Co-opted Members:**

**PART ONE****31. LIBRARIES PLAN 2009-2012**

37.1 The Head of Libraries and Information Services introduced the report. She ran through the Annual Library Plan and highlighted how the issues raised by Committee Members at the Scrutiny workshop had been incorporated. There are seven priorities in the plan and these had been amended to reflect Members' concerns. For example, they were looking at regenerating three local libraries and were looking at the possibility of adjusting opening hours. In response to concerns over attracting new people into libraries, they were looking at a new marketing programme to emphasise library services. Regarding the development of book stocks, there is a regular annual increase for funding books.

37.2 The Head of Libraries and Information Services told the Committee that the consultation period had been extended to 31 December and that the report would go to Council on 29 January 2009. Included in the Libraries Plan is a

review of the Mobile Library and Equal Access Services, and further proposals on these are being prepared. These proposals will be put out for public consultation next year, and would come to the Committee for consideration.

37.3 In answer to questions, the Head of Libraries and Information Services informed the Committee that the additional purchasing power was around £130,000 and there were increasing discounts on books. A lower fee had also been renegotiated in the contract. Following a question on the consultation process and the progress of the report to Council, the Committee was told that any changes would be within the detail of the plan. They would also be highlighted in the covering report that went to Council. Concerns were expressed about the possibility of extending the opening hours of libraries and making them more consistent. The Head of Libraries and Information Services said that it could be possible to alter the opening hours for some community libraries, but that these changes must be affordable. In community libraries such as Coldean, the intention is to build on the relationships with community groups to enable the community to use the facilities out of hours.

37.4 During a discussion on the use of libraries for health information, it was suggested that the libraries team liaise with the team involved in the Health Impact Assessment.

37.5 **RESOLVED –**

- (1) To endorse the Libraries Plan 2009-2012 and forward it on to full Council for adoption;
- (2) To receive the results of the review of equal access services and mobile library services at a future meeting.

**CULTURE, TOURISM & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**4.00PM 25 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Randall (Chairman); Davis, Drake (Deputy Chairman), Hawkes, Kennedy, Older, C Theobald and Turton

**Co-opted Members:**

**PART ONE**

**32. ANNUAL LIBRARY PLAN**

- 24.1 The Director of Cultural Services thanked members for attending the scrutiny workshop. Their useful contributions had been taken on board in the plan and it was confirmed that the Library Plan would be going to Council on 4<sup>th</sup> December.
- 24.2 Members asked if it could be made clear where scrutiny had made an input into the plan, for example in highlighting the need to increase the stock of books. The Director confirmed that the covering report for the plan would highlight the contribution made by Scrutiny members.
- 24.3 Members expressed their concern that only a small percentage of library materials are for children. The Director of Cultural Services agreed to send members a breakdown of expenditure on libraries' materials, by category e.g. children's fiction.
- 24.4 Members asked why a charge has been introduced for buggy users attending the Baby Boogie sessions at Jubilee Library. The Committee requested that the Executive be informed that they were not happy with the introduction of this charge. The Director of Cultural Services agreed to pass on the Committee's views. He explained that the charge had been introduced after the loss of some external funding, following earlier feedback that users would be prepared to pay for these sessions. Members were told that the charge will be reviewed in December to see if it has had any adverse effects. The Committee agreed to keep a watch on this issue.

24.5 Members were offered the formal chance to review the Library plan at the November 13 meeting of CTEOSC. This was agreed.

24.6 The Committee asked how the restructuring of the library staff was progressing. They had heard some concerns expressed about these changes. The Director of Cultural Services agreed to report back to the November CTEOSC meeting on the progress of this restructuring.

24.7 **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Committee review the final Library Plan at the next meeting of CTEOSC on 13 November 2008, and
- (2) That the Director of Cultural Services reflect the Committees' view on the charges at the Jubilee Library on to the Cabinet Member.