

## **SOUTHWARK LIBRARIES REVIEW**

In June 2011 it was announced that the Council was undertaking a public review of the Library Service during the summer. Residents were asked to help the council to think through how to maintain a high quality library service within the context of the Council having to make £34m of budget savings in this year's budget and further savings in the years ahead.

For Libraries, a savings target of £397,000 has to be achieved by 2014 and a new model of delivery for the Home Library Service put into place to save a further £104,000 by 2013.

13 public meetings have taken place in Libraries across the borough to discuss the future of the service with residents, and 5568 people completed survey forms at libraries and online. The survey asked about the ways in which people currently use the library service and asked for opinions and preferences for various options that could potentially save money. Over the summer holidays libraries consulted with young people about their views on the library service and 264 took part.

All of the information collected from this consultation exercise has been analysed and the key headlines are outlined below. The complete findings of the review will be presented in a formal report to Cabinet on 18 October to inform the members in their decision making on the future options for libraries.

### **Headline Statistics from the adult survey**

- 9% of all the survey respondents do not have a library card

### **What people came to the library to do**

- ❖ 79% borrowed books
- ❖ 55% came to read
- ❖ 42% borrowed a/v
- ❖ 41% information search
- ❖ 21% job hunting
- ❖ 16% to attend and take part in activities
- ❖ 31% to email
- ❖ 31% to study

## **Volunteering**

- 46% of respondents agreed that libraries should make more use of volunteers
- 17% would volunteer for between 5-10 hours per month
- 5% would volunteer for between 10-20 hours per month
- 23% would volunteer for less than 5 hours per month

## **Charging for ICT**

- 48% of respondents disagreed with the option to charge for use of pcs and 37% agreed

## **Opening Hours**

- 31% of respondents would prefer to keep existing opening hours even if this means having fewer libraries
- 69% of respondents would prefer to keep existing libraries even if this means shorter opening hours.

## **Most favoured options for making savings**

- 41% said reduce opening hours
- 36% said reduce the number of smaller libraries
- 33% said reduce the budget for ICT
- 14% said reduce the number of staff

## **Headline Statistics from the children's consultation**

### **1. What is important to you?**

- 22% said having books to borrow
- 17% said having a library near to where they live
- 15% said being able to use the computers
- 15% said having activities to do

### **2. What times of day do you use the library?**

- The most well used times were weekdays from 3 – 5 pm and at weekends and during holiday times from 1 – 5 pm

### **3. Which libraries do you use?**

- The libraries most visited were:
- Peckham by 23% of respondents
- Dulwich by 17%
- Newington by 13%