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Dyddiad / Date: 23 November 2015

Councillor Rod McKerlich
Chair, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Services
Room 263
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Councillor McKerlich

Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee - 11 November 2015

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November 2015. I have passed on your thanks to the Officers present. I am pleased that you found the presentations offered of benefit. I am very grateful to the Committee for considering the service performance and providing feedback which is always useful. I have provided responses below to the Committee's recommendations, observations and requests which I hope will be helpful.

Welsh Public Library Standards 5th Framework – Annual report

Thank you for your kind comments. I believe that this year the service has performed well and it is very positive to see this reflected within the Authority's return. Work has started on the user survey and we hope to progress with this in the New Year. Officers attended a seminar at Museums Archives and Library Division Headquarters (MALD) on 12 November 2015 and were able to feedback the comments of the Committee, particularly emphasising the need for the next Framework to expand and recognise the more complex digital needs of our Citizens. We have a good working relationship with MALD and will continue to work with them on this matter.

Roath Library - The Community Asset Transfer that is currently live does ask for interest from both community and commercial organisations. The main requirement is that either the commercial or community organisation retains a library provision in the building. I can confirm that we have had commercial interest in Roath Library, as well as from community groups, and I am hopeful that I can return to a future scrutiny with a positive long term solution for the building.

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It is of course regrettable that a short term solution for provision within the Adamsdown Area has not been implemented to date, however I can confirm that the Travelling Library Service continues to operate within the area and efforts are still being made to progress a solution at the earliest opportunity. We are currently working with the Cardiff & Vale UHW to progress a potential temporary option for the Library Service within the CRI facility in Adamsdown. We will keep communities updated about progress on a regular basis.

Cardiff Central Library Hub

Your kind comments regarding the success of the Central Library Hub project are much appreciated. I would agree that it is fantastic to see the results that have been achieved so far. It is already apparent that the new enhanced facility will enable the authority to maximise the learning, social and literacy outcomes that it will be able to deliver to Cardiff's citizens. I know that there are lots of plans to develop services particularly those associated with the Digital Floor which recently released its curriculum offer to Schools. I am very hopeful that the co-located strategy will deliver a more sustainable future for the building in these challenging times.

I agree that the location of the building maybe restrictive for disabled users and I have asked officers to research parking options. A meeting is to take place with Councillor Javed shortly to hopefully progress a solution.

Library Stock Management Strategy and Local Studies Service

I am pleased that you were able to support our general proposals. I believe solutions can be sourced that will deliver protection, preservation and greater accessibility to Historical Collections as well as enabling the service to discontinue the requirement to occupy Dominions Way, which is of course very costly.

With regards to art work, it is a very interesting idea to offer loans to the public. I understand that officers have already been in touch with our Stuttgart colleagues to get a better understanding of the scheme that is offered in that city. There are obviously insurance and resource requirements for operating such a scheme but officers will of course continue to investigate possibilities. I would stress that this isn't solely an issue for the Library Service, the Council as a whole holds numerous art works in a range of buildings and a council wide approach is needed.

Thank you once again for your letter and the constructive feedback that the Committee felt able to provide.

Yn gwyir,
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bradbury', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives & Social Enterprise
Aelod Cabinet Dros Datblygu Cymunedol, Mentrau Cydweithredol a Mentrau Cymdeithasol

Cc Sarah McGill, Director, Communities, Housing and Customer Services
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Members of the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee