

- 1.** Core Plus (of which Chipping Barnet is one) is the highest level of library. These libraries will gain books that are excess to the requirements of the two lower library categories. How many books from the other categories are designated for each of the 4 Core Plus Libraries? Are all the excess books from the lower category libraries going to be transferred to the Core Plus libraries or only a portion of them?
- 2.** Chipping Barnet library will be closed from December 5th to February 6th. Further work is scheduled for Chipping Barnet June/August. What is the estimated cost of this work? What company(s)/organisation(s) have been contracted with undertaking the work? How many competitive quotes were obtained? Are any over-runs or under-runs to the budgeted figure for this work currently expected?
- 3.** Part of Chipping Barnet library is intended for letting out as offices. What assumptions have been made as to how much rent is likely to be received? Is the anticipated rent (for Chipping Barnet plus any spaces at the other libraries that will be rented out) taken into account in calculating the amount to be saved from the libraries reorganisation, and will any rent received be kept within the library budget?
- 4.** Mill Hill library is to be closed for work from December 5th to 9th January, and it is planned that East Barnet library will be housed in a new facility in Victoria Park. The other libraries won't be closed but will have work done, presumably for security and entry systems at various times between January and June next year. The questions set out in '2' above regarding estimated costs; designated contractor(s); quotes obtained; and possible over/under runs also apply to these libraries.
- 5.** The plans shown for the Core and Partnership libraries show something called 'changes to library stock'. Does this mean reductions in their stock of books as referred to in '1' above? What is the percentage reduction in the number of books that will be held by each of the libraries in these two categories once the re-organisation is complete? Will all the books deemed surplus to requirements be transferred to the Core Plus libraries?
- 6.** The plan states that the Core Libraries will only hold books that are "in the highest demand". What does this mean in practice?
- 7.** What is the current annual budget for the acquisition of new book for all the libraries in the Borough? Will this figure be increased or decreased in the periods after the re-organisation, and if so, by what percentage?
- 8.** Permanent staff will be cut from 114 to 62. Will the remaining 62 staff be working full or part time? Will the composition, experience, and salary levels of the remaining staff be at the same level as they are at present?
- 9.** Will any security staff be present or visit any of the libraries? If so, what will be the total annual cost of this operation? What are the costs associated with manning the planned security call centre? Have associated security costs been taken into account when arriving at the £2.2m savings figure arising from the library re-organisation?
- 10.** The Security Section of the recent Planning Application claims that the proposed new opening arrangements have been successfully piloted over a 15/18 month period at Edgware Library. Edgware library is currently open for 88 hours per week as compared with the 92 hours that are proposed. The library is manned by paid staff for 54 hours per week - - 61% of the time, whereas under the proposed arrangements the library will be manned by paid staff for only 23 hours a week - 23% of the time. How can it be argued that a current manned time almost 3 times greater than that proposed gives a valid comparison, and can justify the statement that the Edgware pilot has been successful?

11. Are the anticipated £2.2m library savings for each year, or is this the total savings for the period up to 2020? In addition, the Transport Section of the current Planning Application refers to a figure of £2.88m. for library savings. Which is the correct figure, and which one was the decision to re-organise the libraries based on?

12. It is noticeable that the eastern part of the Borough is particularly badly catered for. Why is this?