

FORMER HAYES LIBRARY, GOLDEN CRESCENT, HAYES- PETITION OBJECTING TO THE SALE

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio	Finance, Property and Business Services
Officer Contact	Mayur Patel- Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
Papers with report	None

HEADLINE INFORMATION

Purpose of report	To provide background for the Cabinet Member to hear a petition submitted by John McDonnell MP on behalf of Botwell residents against the sale of Golden Crescent Library.
Contribution to our plans and strategies	None
Financial Cost	Should the petition be upheld, a capital receipt for the Council's Capital Receipts Programme will not be generated as a result of the non-sale of the property.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee.
Ward(s) affected	Botwell

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Meets the petitioners' and considers their objection to the Council selling the former Hayes Library before any decision is made on its future.**
- 2. Decides on the appropriate course of action having met with the petitioners.**

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

To allow the Cabinet Member to consider the petition with the petitioners.

Alternative options considered / risk management

These can be identified from the discussions with the petitioners.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage.

Supporting Information

1. Cabinet on 14th April 2011 resolved:
 - (a) To declare the former Hayes Library surplus to requirements.
 - (b) To proceed with the option to sell the former Hayes Library on a long lease at a peppercorn rent with planning permission for conversion to flats.
2. A petition with 451 signatures signed by Botwell Ward residents was received by the Council on 13th April 2011 under the cover of a letter of the same date by John McDonnell MP.
3. The residents have signed the following statement: "We the undersigned object to the Council selling off the site of Golden Crescent Library. This is an invaluable community asset with immense historical value to our community. We urge the Council to keep this building in public ownership for use by the wider community and to work with the local community to secure its long term future".
4. Cabinet on 14th April 2011 noted this last minute petition against the disposal of the former Hayes Library. In doing so, Cabinet welcomed the significant increase in use by residents and local organisations of the new Hayes Library at Botwell Green Leisure complex. Cabinet agreed that there was no service requirement for the former Library site and that the option to sell would generate a capital receipt that would contribute to the Council's Capital Receipts Programme, in particular to fund the need for additional school places in the south of the Borough, which it felt was a priority.
5. Cabinet felt that by declaring the former Hayes Library surplus it would best achieve the community's wider needs.
6. The former Hayes Library was closed on 19th June 2010 re-located to the state-of-the-art Botwell Leisure Centre, where it has already experienced a significant 31% increase in use by residents. New facilities and rooms now enable a variety of groups and activities to be provided by the Library. With the upcoming relocation of the One-Stop-Shop and Citizen's Advice Bureau to the same site, the Botwell Leisure Centre will boast a unique collection and integration of community services for the residents of Hayes and beyond.

Financial Implications

Should the petition be upheld, this would result in a loss of income for the Council's Capital Receipts Programme, as outlined in the Cabinet report of 14th April 2011.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

The recommendations will enable the Cabinet Member to discuss with the petitioners' their objection to the Council selling the former Hayes Library and allow him to consider whether or not to uphold the decision of the Cabinet on 14th April 2011 to sell this property.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

This petition hearing is part of the Council's consultation.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Legal

Under Article 7 of the Council's Constitution, Cabinet Members have a general delegation to deal with petitions in their portfolio area in accordance with Council procedures.

In considering the recommendations, the Cabinet Member should note that this is a listening exercise on the matter raised in the petition. The Cabinet Member will also note that informal consideration of the same petition was given at the Cabinet meeting on 14 April 2011, where a decision was made on to sell the site concerned.

If the Cabinet Member agrees with Cabinet's previous decision of the 14th April then no further action need be taken. If the Cabinet Member agrees with the petitioners' request then Cabinet will be required to re-consider the matter.

Finally, the Cabinet Member must have regard to the requirements of Article 13 of the Council's Constitution which sets out the seven principles that should be followed when making decisions

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet decision- 14th April 2011