

Committee: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY	Date: 1 September 2009	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No. 6.1
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive Originating Officer(s): Amanda Thompson Team Leader, Democratic Services			Title: Cabinet Decision Called-in: Ideas Stores Strategy Wards:	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The attached report of the Corporate Director, Communities, Localities and Culture was considered by the Cabinet on 29 July 2009 and has been "Called In" by Councillors Tim Archer, Phil Briscoe, Rupert Eckhardt, Peter Golds, and Shirley Houghton for further consideration. This is in accordance with the provisions of Part Four of the Council's Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the contents of the attached report, review the Cabinet's provisional decisions arising and decide whether to accept them or refer the matter back to Cabinet with proposals, together with reasons.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

Brief description of "background paper"

Cabinet report - 29 July 2009

Name and telephone number of holder
and address where open to inspection

Amanda Thompson
02073644651

3. THE CABINET'S PROVISIONAL DECISION

3.1 The Cabinet after considering the attached report provisionally agreed:-

1. That the analysis and strategic objectives identified in the Idea Store Strategy, be noted; and
2. That, subject to (a), (b) and (c) below, the Idea Store Strategy and the associated Action Plan in Appendix 1 of the report (CAB 018/090), be agreed.
 - (a) Noting that the location of future Ideas Stores had yet to be determined and this matter would be the subject of future consultation, it be agreed that the Authority's preferred location for an Ideas Store on the Isle of Dogs would be at Crossharbour at the ASDA Store.
 - (b) Noting that some libraries may not have a viable ongoing future for provision of library services, but also that the Authority remained committed to their ongoing use by the Community where possible, as part of its Asset Management Strategy, it be agreed that sale of such sites only be considered in circumstances where neither use by the Council nor a partner organisation was a viable ongoing option.
 - (c) It was also noted that, because of its position and heritage value, public access would be a pre-requisite of any future use of Bethnal Green Library.

4. REASONS FOR THE 'CALL IN'

4.1 The Call-in requisition signed by the five Councillors listed above gives the following reasons for the Call-in:

'The report makes extravagant claims regarding the Idea Store programme and contrasts existing local libraries unfavourably against Idea Stores.

The report does not mention that Idea Stores contain activities that are not shared by libraries (such as public conveniences), refreshment facilities and wider computer availability, all of which will inflate the numbers using the Idea Store.

The report refers to localism, devolution of decision making and the emerging LDF, and will therefore cause concern to residents of the Isle of Dogs.

The report suggests the possibility of closing the existing well established Cubitt Town Library and replacing it with an Idea Store on Wood Wharf. Cubitt Town Library is close to the centre of the Island, adjoins the only

established shopping centre on the Island, and is at the heart of the local transport hub.

Wood wharf will be some way from all of these established community needs, particularly those who rely on public transport.'

5. ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED:

5.1 The Councillors submitting the Call-in requisition have proposed the following alternative course of action:

That Cabinet looks again at the strategy with particular reference to the Isle of Dogs;

That Cabinet notes that this neighbourhood has the highest population of anywhere in the Borough and that current proposals being considered by the Council (Asda and Skylines) will see housing increase by 2,500 units in the immediate vicinity; and

That the Cabinet commits itself to retaining the Library in Cubitt Town which remains the heart of the Isle of Dogs and the established centre for the whole community.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE "CALL IN"

6.1 The following procedure is to be followed for consideration of the "Call In":

- (a) Presentation of the "Call In" by one of the "Call In" Members followed by questions.
- (b) Response from the Lead Member/officers followed by questions.
- (c) General debate followed by decision.

N.B. – In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Protocols and Guidance adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 5 June, 2007, any Member(s) who presents the "Call In" is not eligible to participate in the general debate.

6.2 It is open to the Committee to either resolve to take no action which would have the effect of endorsing the original Cabinet decisions, or the Committee could refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration setting out the nature of its concerns and possibly recommending an alternative course of action.