

#### **4. PETITIONS**

A petition regarding the future provision of Bromley's library service was submitted to the Council on 11 March 2011. The head of petition was as follows:

Save our services

Stop Bromley Council closing and selling off your libraries

We the undersigned call on Bromley Council to drop their plans to close 8 out of the 15 libraries, to cut the number of staff and then privatise the service.

In line with the Council's Petition Scheme, Councillor Julian Benington, the Executive Member for Renewal and Recreation, responded to the petitioners on 14 March 2011 – a copy is attached at item 4 of the agenda. This response was sent to the head petitioner and also published on the Council website.

As the petitioners have declared themselves dissatisfied with the response they received, and have exceeded the threshold required, they have requested that the petition is referred to full Council for consideration. The head petitioner or their nominee has five minutes to put their case to councillors.

Once the Council has considered what is brought before them, they can choose to make recommendations for action. If there are any recommendations requiring action by councillors or officers then a report back to the next scheduled meeting of Council is required, which should set out what has been done in response, or if nothing, then the reasons for this.

## Agenda Item 4

**From:** Benington, Julian  
**Sent:** 14 March 2011 16:01  
**To:** Kelly, Glenn  
**Subject:** Bromley Library Service

Dear Mr Kelly

I am sending this email to formally confirm receipt of your petition dated 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

The report of the member Working Party on the borough's library service was considered at the Renewal and Recreation Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee on 15 February 2011.

At this point in time, the Working Party, acknowledging the value of libraries, have recommended that further work be undertaken on the partnership model, particularly through working with the London Borough of Bexley to provide one library service covering both boroughs. Officers will continue to develop this model with a view to bringing back a detailed report for Members' consideration to a further Committee on 12 April 2011. Officers will continue to look at the location of individual libraries and what options exist for taking the service forward in the future. I should stress that no decisions regarding closure of any libraries have been taken at this point in time.

The Council fully appreciates your concern with regard to the library service and I hope that you will acknowledge that the Council is not seeking to rush into a decision about the future of the service but is taking time to fully consider all the issues and complexities involved.

Furthermore, this Council has, over the last few years, invested significant sums firstly in the new Biggin Hill Library and more latterly the new Orpington Library which is due to open in April of this year. All of which further reinforces the Council's commitment to the library services.

Given that your petition exceeds the threshold of 500 valid signatures required under the Council's Petition Scheme, should the petitioners be dissatisfied with the response above they are able to request that the petition be put to the next meeting of the Full Council.

I hope this response is of help to you and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Julian Benington  
Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation  
London Borough of Bromley