

Scrutiny Commission Referral Form

Referral from:
Neighbourhoods & Communities
Scrutiny Commission 20th
November 2103

To: Mayor and Cabinet 5th December
2013

Date: 24th November 2013

Contact Officer: Steve Chapman, Scrutiny Officer extn 22735

Subject: Proposal to lease the lower two basement floors (of the original Holden Library) of the Bristol Central Library to the Cathedral Primary School.

1. Reason for referral

The Commission considered the proposal as detailed in the Cabinet report but were unable to support it for the reasons outlined in the attached statement.

2. Recommendations

The Mayor and Cabinet are requested to consider the attached statement when deciding on whether to approve this proposal.

4. Accompanying papers (as attached)

Statement from the Neighbourhoods & Scrutiny Commission

Statement agreed at the the Neighbourhoods and Scrutiny Commission meeting of the 20th November 2013

That the Mayor and Cabinet be advised that the Neighbourhoods & Scrutiny Commission does not support the proposal to lease the lower two basement floors (of the original Holden Library) of the Bristol Central Library to the Cathedral Primary School.

The Commission found that the current proposal left unanswered questions around:

- the suitability of the site for its proposed use,
- its impact on the availability of school places for local children,
- the environmental impact of the building itself and the transport of children to and from the school,
- the potential negative effect on users of the reference library when the bulk of the reference material is stored off- site.

The Commission was not satisfied that that the Equality Impact Assessments provided an adequate impact assessment of these proposals on library users, library staff and most importantly young people.