

EXTENDED SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 2

Wednesday 28 April 2010

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members may be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Cath Anley, Head of Library Service, and Gill Bromley, Strategic Manager, Library Service, Communities Directorate, Kent County Council

- (Question for both) Please introduce yourselves and describe the roles and responsibilities that your positions involve.
- (For both) How is the Kent Library Service organised, and what are its main tasks and objectives?
- (For both) Please indicate the main services the Kent Library Service offers to young children (Early Years), schools, families, children's centres and the Kent community at large.
- (For both) What are the main benefits the Library Service offers to the local community, in relation to extended services?
- (For both) In your view, what are the main economic, legal, social and operational challenges – if any – for the Kent Library Service, when providing extended services to Kent residents?
- (For both) In your opinion, in what ways, if any, can these challenges be resolved?
- (For both) Please discuss the ways the Kent Library and Archives Service will develop in the future, and how these developments will shape usage and opportunities for the local community.
- (For both) In your view, which groups of Kent residents benefit most from the provision extended services? Are there any particular groups of Kent

residents who, in your view, find it more challenging to access extended services? If so, why?

- (For both) In what ways, if any, will the reduction of Government funding for Extended Services in future years affect the Kent Library Service?
- (For both) In your view, in what ways, if any, can collaboration between Kent County Council and external partners, such as those in the voluntary and private sector, be made more effective when providing Extended Services?
- (For both) In your opinion, what general initiatives and strategies should Kent County Council adopt to secure the sustainability of extended services into the future?