

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Place Scrutiny Committee – 8th July 2013

Question from Mr Ali to the Executive Councillor for Culture and Tourism

Question

Southend-on-Sea Library Service Review

The Council will be holding two Public Meetings on Tuesday 2nd July and Tuesday 6th August regarding the consultation on the future of two care homes in Southend. Southend Libraries are very important to the community as highlighted by the presentation Community and Diversity Librarian Simon Wallace made at Shoeburyness Residents Association meeting on Thursday 23 May 2013 in the presence of several Councillors including Cllr Derek J Jarvis.

The community would very much welcome public meetings regarding the future of Southend Libraries in the same way the Council will be organising public meetings regarding the future of the care homes. Will the Council organise and publicise such meetings?

Answer

We are undertaking the second phase of the public consultation which has been well publicized and has received extensive coverage in the local media. This period of consultation provides the opportunity for people to express their view on the draft future strategy for the library service which is clearly set out in the consultation document. During the three month consultation period (which runs until 8th September) the Library Service will be attending many of the events being held around the town which will help to promote the consultation and encourage as many people as possible to complete the questionnaire and contribute individually to the review. There are many different elements within the proposal that we are seeking views on; public meetings at this stage would pre-emptive of decisions not yet made.