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From: **Roebuck,Sandra** <[SRoebuck@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:SRoebuck@lambeth.gov.uk)>

Date: 21 March 2018 at 15:27

Subject: Response to query 26. 2.18

To: "[claciomember@gmail.com](mailto:claciomember@gmail.com)" <[claciomember@gmail.com](mailto:claciomember@gmail.com)>

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Dear Mr Doon,

Thank you for your email dated the 26th of February 2018 regarding Carnegie Library. As you have highlighted in your correspondence, Lambeth Council is continuing with the process of the Community Asset Transfer with the Carnegie Community Trust (CCT). They are the preferred partner following the evaluation.

At present the CCT and Lambeth Council are in dialogue in relation to a number of elements required by the asset transfer process such as the lease arrangements for the relevant parts of the building.

Lambeth council are aware that the CCT have publicly published their business plan which can be viewed by accessing the following link: <http://carnegiehernehill.org.uk/project-documents/> While discussions continue it would not be appropriate for Lambeth council to comment independently on any past, present or potential bids that have been or may be submitted while the community asset transfer process remains open.

In terms of the reopening of the library, we believe that the current, albeit temporarily reduced offer, has been welcomed by users of the library and various groups who are now using the facilities.

The decision to open the library without disabled access was a difficult one. It was taken with the consideration that the lift required to facilitate disable access is located on the contractor's side of the building. Lambeth Council will review this decision again, once the basement excavation works are completed.

Lambeth Council can also clarify that the library does have a secondary fire exit within the main hall which is clearly marked and leads down the staircase to the street. The secondary exit has a permanent security presence assigned to it. The security officer is tasked with providing assistance to visitors of the library in the event of an emergency and to prevent visitors from unwittingly encroaching on the contractor's canteen/office.

Lambeth would also highlight that while there is no statutory requirement for the council to offer a public toilet service on its library premises but there are staff toilets available. Staff in the library can allow visitors to use these facilities in cases of emergency. There is also a fully functional staff kitchen again open to visitors of the Library at the staff's discretion.

There are currently no works taking place in the main hall or entrance to the library. There is no dust or possibility of dust emanating from the basement into the library. The two sites are separated by 4 sets of double fire doors. The contractors working in the basement are only permitted to enter the library in in cases of emergency. The primary and secondary fire exits are kept clear at all times during library opening times.

The decision to re-open the library was taken in consideration of the main excavation works now nearing completion. There are a small number of underpins left to complete the basement structure and therefore any noisy works are programmed to take place outside opening hours.

There may be times when noisy works are required for short periods of time and in these instances staff in the library will be notified.

While the temporary heating provision in the library may not be as visually attractive as permanent heaters they are fully functional and are used across the council's assets to provide heating where temporary or emergency heating is required.

Lambeth can confirm that all Greenwich Leisure Limited staff have all been DBS checked, however staff located at Carnegie are not employed as librarian staff and are not expected to provide the level of support and supervision traditionally provided by librarians. As such children under the age of 8 should be accompanied by an adult when visiting the Library.

Sandra Roebuck  
Director of Growth, Planning and Employment