

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 1 August 2024

Question 1 Question from M Melling to Councillor Richardson, Cabinet Member for Climate and Culture.

“In relation to the cabinet meeting of 19th March 2024, Councillor Head requested that any proposed SLA between RCBC and a community group taking over Laburnum Road Community Library be made available to all members prior to any final decision, can you confirm this will happen?”

Will the RCBC Laburnum Road Community Library still be branded as an council Library and be part of the council library services offer in the event that it is taken over by a community group?

What current council services will RCBC ensure are still offered at Laburnum Road Community Library in the event that it is taken over by a Community Group?
Appendix attached:

RCBC current services include but not limited to:

- Bus Passes new/renewal/lost
- Blue badge applications
- Access to Public PCs
- Scanning, photocopying and printing (including from their own device)
- Referral of customers to housebound service if appropriate
- Audiobook service for sight impaired
- Ancestry Online
- Which Online
- Book request from any library in Redcar & Cleveland
- Activities and events throughout the year weekly/monthly
- Assisting with BorrowBox (eBooks, eAudiobooks and ePress)
- Support with applying/paying for other council services (where capacity allows), for example, recent Annual Green Waste Subscription
- Customer Service trained staff in all library buildings so a wide variety of queries can be assisted.”

Question 2 Question from M Edwards to Councillor Richardson, Cabinet Member for Climate and Culture.

“In the event that Laburnum Road Community Library is taken over by a community group, will the library continue to be an all inclusive space at all times and be open 5 days a week as opposed to the current 2?”

In the event that the Laburnum Road Community Library is taken over by a community group, will the Community Group volunteers be trained by RCBC to ensure continued Library and Council Services Standards are met?

If the preferred community group is unable to continue operating, what is the RCBC contingency plan for Laburnum Road Community Library?”

Question 3 Question from E Finley to Councillor Richardson, Cabinet Member for Climate and Culture.

“In the event that the Laburnum Road Community Library is taken over by a community group, will the RCBC library service Sparks software system remain and be operated by the Community Group at Laburnum Road Community Library?”

In the event that the Laburnum Road Community Library is taken over by a community group, will RCBC continue to provide and maintain computers for free public use?

In the event that the Laburnum Road Community Library is taken over by a community group, will RCBC continue to provide and maintain printer and scanner for public use?”

Question 4 Question from J Overfield to Councillor Richardson, Cabinet Member for Climate and Culture.

“1. In the event that the Laburnum Road Community Library is taken over by a community group, will all activities within Laburnum Road Community Library continue to be free?”

2. In the event that the Laburnum Road Community Library is taken over by a community group, will the library continue to be classed as a Warm, Safe, Space offering free hot drinks?”

3. The book and toy stock in Laburnum Road Community Library has been recently reduced. Why have books and toys been removed and what would be the proposed level of book and toy stock in the event the library is taken over by a community group?”