

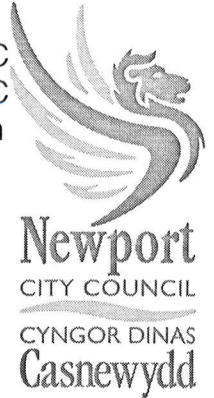
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Continuing Learning & Leisure
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Civic Centre/Canolfan Ddinesig
Newport/Casnewydd
South Wales/De Cymru
NP20 4UR

Christine Chapman
Committee Service
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA.

22 April 2014

Dear Christine Chapman

Inquiry into Public Libraries in Wales

Thank you for your recent communication regarding the inquiry into public libraries in Wales being undertaken by the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee.

The following are the responses to the questions raised in your recent letter;

Equalities Impact Assessments form an integral part of the decision making process when considering changes to opening hours or closures of library sites. A full EIA was completed when considering the one day closure of the Central Library, Museum and Art Gallery which was implemented in April of this year. If you would like a copy of the EIA we would be able to forward.

The authority will be undertaking a meaningful consultation exercise with citizens during 2014 to gain views on a range of options for the delivery of a comprehensive and efficient library service to the people of Newport moving forward from 2016 onwards. This consultation exercise will involve a whole range of stakeholders including representatives of vulnerable groups across the City.

Library services within Newport work closely with local primary and secondary schools. Until recently primary schools were supported by the provision of a library support service to schools providing collections of books to support the learning in the school. This service has now been withdrawn as part of the revenue savings and replaced by a system of "teachers' tickets" which enables teachers within Newport schools to borrow collections of stock to support their class room activities. Libraries are part of an integrated service with Adult Community Learning and Flying Start. Adult learners, parents and children are supported through the provision of stock, free ICT provision and literacy initiatives such as Six Book Challenge and projects to combat digital inclusion.