

**Brierley Hill Area Committee**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

**Brierley Hill Library Locality Panel**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Brierley Hill Area committee about the planned establishment of the Brierley Hill Locality Library Panel as one of a five panels across the borough as part of the ongoing engagement and consultation for Dudley Libraries.
2. To request the committee to nominate Councillors to become members of the panel.

**Background**

3. An important part of the Library modernisation process has been to engage communities and consult on services. Major work has been undertaken to consult about convenient opening hours and has resulted in successful extended opening hours including Sundays.
4. Communities have been consulted on the book stock and services to be provided at Library Links which has shaped the provision planned for these new models of service. Ongoing engagement and consultation is now part of the development and delivery of the library engagement programme. It is envisaged that the establishment of Library Locality Panels will further strengthen this consultation and engagement. . Decision sheet number DACHS/026/2010 has now been signed by the Director and Cabinet Member to formalise this undertaking.
5. Housing colleagues have been consulted regarding governance and administration of their panels and the model set out in this paper reflects the established housing model adapted to library business.
6. The administration for the Brierley Hill Locality Library Panel will be done by the Heads of Library Service Personal Assistant. The Brierley Hill Locality Manager will be responsible for minutes and agendas and for attending the meeting as the responsible officer.
7. The Brierley Hill Locality Library Panel will cover all library matters within the locality and service wide matters where appropriate. The Brierley Hill Locality Library Panel will each consist of 5 library users – made up of at least 1 representative from a youth group or a library member under 18, 1 representative from a library reading or writing group, 3 general library user representatives including minority and/or disability representatives and 5 Councillor representatives.

8. Library users will be elected by library members, Councillors nominated by the Brierley Hill Area Committee.
9. Observers will be allowed, and the meetings will be held quarterly
10. The Constitution for the Locality Library Panels is included as Appendix 1
11. The suggested date for the first Brierley Hill Locality Library Panel is in March 2011. The Halesowen Panel will be the pilot commencing October 2010. This will be reviewed after 2 meetings. The Director of Adult and Community Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Housing, Libraries, Archives and Adult Learning will carefully examine feedback from the experience of the early pilot to ensure that the experience informs the development of other panels across the borough.

### **Finance**

12. The Locality Library Panels will be delivered within existing budgets.

### **Law**

13. Under the requirements of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, the Council is a Library Authority with a requirement to provide 'a comprehensive and efficient library service'

### **Equality Impact**

14. The panel will be set up to enable as wide a range of library users to have the chance to engage with the process.

### **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that the Brierley Hill Area committee:-
  - Note the introduction of library panels as a key engagement mechanism with library users.
  - Nominate the Councillors to be their representatives on the Brierley Hill Library Locality Panel so that introductory preparations for the commencement of the panels (subject to the success of the Halesowen pilot) can be undertaken.



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## **List of Background Papers**

Appendix 1 – Locality Library Panel Constitution