

Item 12.6**Notices of Motion****Public Libraries Adapting to Covid-19**

By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) NSW Health Orders and physical distancing requirements have forced our City libraries to temporarily close, however the City has continued to offer library services and transfer some of our invaluable services online;
- (ii) the City has continued to provide key services such as the Home Library to our vulnerable community, however due to safety reasons some library services have been discontinued;
- (iii) online borrowing has increased by 74 per cent compared to this time last year, across all resources including movie streaming through Kanopy, initiatives in conjunction with the NSW State Library such as IndyReads, transferring rhyme time/storyline online and allowing for safe in-person book collection through 'Reserve & Collect';
- (iv) library staff have also answered thousands of emails responding to community members and assisting the elderly who have limited technological literacy;
- (v) a range of Sydney councils have expanded their previous services, continuing to allow homeless people, who cannot afford their own device, access to a PC and an internet connection. This has been done during restricted hours, with frequent cleansing of used areas and enforcing social distancing between terminals;
- (vi) councils have supported their libraries to transfer writer, illustrator and other creatives talks or content online through workshops and/or webinars; and
- (vii) libraries have undergone 'weed and seed' initiatives, to collect the older titles from the shelves, and make room for new collections providing much needed revenue for authors and publishers. This task is easier to undertake and manage when libraries are closed and teams can comprehensively review their collection; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

- (i) reopen City libraries and other library services in line with NSW Government restrictions being lifted;
- (ii) investigate if City libraries are able to provide access to PCs and internet to vulnerable and homeless communities in line with NSW social distancing requirements;

- (iii) investigate the City's capacity to help create increased online workshop/webinar content, and undertake a 'weed and seed' initiative to support authors and publishers;
- (iv) investigate additional initiatives our libraries could be providing or support they need to adequately advise the elderly population and broader community;
- (v) update the City of Sydney Library Services website and other channels to reflect any service changes; and
- (vi) report back to the Council on actions taken via the CEO Update.

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