

Item 16.2

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) many of the Libraries and Learning staff are working from home on innovative projects for the community;
 - (iii) as part of the recovery and re-opening plans existing borrowing backlogs are being cleared new services such as click and collect are being investigated from a financial and operational sustainability perspective, whilst ensuring the health and safety of the team and library members remains central;
 - (iv) 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 paused;
 - (v) the City of Sydney's online borrowing resources have increased by 74 per cent compared to this time last year this includes movie streaming through Kanopy, initiatives in conjunction with the NSW State Library such as IndyReads and transferring rhyme time/storyline online;
 - (vi) library staff have also answered thousands of emails responding to community members and assisting the elderly who have limited technological literacy;
 - (vii) City of Sydney staff are developing recovery plans for reopening libraries that incorporates granting access to all of our community;
 - (viii) the City of Sydney has granted \$2,870,613 million of funding to support creatives including writers, illustrators and artists to adapt their content for online via the Cultural Resilience Grant and the Creative Fellowships Fund;
 - (ix) the City of Sydney is a member of the Sydney Rough Sleeping Covid-19 Taskforce, and is assisting the NSW State Government and other agencies to help rough sleepers in temporary hotel accommodation access relevant services;
 - (x) the City of Sydney is supporting frontline workers from NEAMI and the Department of Communities and Justice to provide rough sleepers with access to mobile phone, WiFi and computers;

- (xi) 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.
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
 - (i) update the City of Sydney Library Services website and other channels to reflect the current services being offered and ongoing service changes; and
 - (ii) report back to the Council on actions via the CEO Update

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