

Cabinet Report, 10 December 2025 – Future Proposals for Former Library Premises  
– Grounds for Requisition

The following Councillors have indicated they wish to support the requisition of the above Cabinet decision:

Councillor Keith Darvill

Councillor Judith Holt

Councillor Dilip Patel

Councillor Nisha Patel

Councillor Viddy Persaud

Councillor Keith Prince

Councillor Tim Ryan

Councillor David Taylor

Councillor Christine Vickery (unable to attend)

Councillor Michael White

We the above wish to call in the various decisions made on Wednesday 10th December regarding the future plans for Harold Wood, Gidea Park and South Hornchurch Libraries

Harold Wood

The decision was vague as to what the actual proposals were and no detail given regarding the meanwhile provision

Therefore we believe that until these matters are resolved no decision should be taken

Gidea Park

The current proposal is vague and there is no detail of what other options were explored and we are therefore not assured what is being proposed is the best option

There is a question as regards whether putting a respite centre next to a building site would be the best location.

South Hornchurch

Again the proposals are vague with no detail on how the future receipts will be spent

There is also no clarity as to whether the monies need to demolish both Gidea Park and South Hornchurch will be Capital or Revenue expenditure surely this should be known before such an important decision is made?

Therefore before any decisions are made we feel the following questions should be answered:

What are the time scales regarding the meanwhile use of Harold Wood Library?

What alternatives were rejected regarding Gidea Park library?

What other locations have been explored regarding the respite centre?

What provision has been made for the disruption and noise associated with the neighbouring development and what effects this will have on those seeking respite?

How will the demolition costs be covered and will it be Capital or Revenue?

What other proposals have been rejected regarding South Hornchurch library?

Why is the whole South Hornchurch site not being proposed for development?

How will and what proportion of any receipt be spent on upgrading or replacing the current Community Centre?

Has there been a feasibility study of a joint homes/community facility on the sites, such as Gidea Park? If so, can we please be presented with the details of the study?

Has the council considered developing the sites into social homes to cut costs from our temporary accommodation bill?

Why will the special needs accommodation site at Gidea Park only provide care for such a small number?