

# ***London Borough of Bexley***

## ***News Release***

**For Immediate Release**

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### **BOSTALL COMMUNITY GROUP TO MANAGE LOCAL LIBRARY**

Bexley's Cabinet is expected to agree the new arrangements for the community management of Bostall Library, at its meeting next week (17 November).

It is proposed that from next April the library will be managed by The Bostall Library Community Group.

Earlier this year the Council asked for community groups to come forward to help run four of the borough's libraries at Blackfen, Bostall, North Heath and Upper Belvedere. This followed the adoption of a new Library Strategy and a plan for remodelling the service.

The Bostall Library Community Group is made up of local people who are all regular library users. The group also includes a member of Library staff, who saw the process as a great opportunity to develop an even more community focussed library. The group worked together to come up with a comprehensive bid to run the library.

Under the new management arrangements, the core services of the Library will be enhanced by new facilities including a 'click and collect' parcel service, a food ordering service and a coffee shop. Membership of the library will continue to be free of charge.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Environment and Leisure, Cllr Peter Craske said; "I am really pleased that the local Bostall community saw the opportunity to work with us to realise their vision for a library that will provide even more of the services that residents and visitors want to receive.

“They have clearly shown us that they are committed to delivering an excellent library in Bostall that will develop new and exciting services. I am confident that the group will rise to the challenge of delivering a community focussed library and the Council will be working closely with them to ensure they are supported as they establish themselves and work to achieve their goals.”

The Cabinet will also decide on community groups for Blackfen, North Heath and Upper Belvedere Libraries at the meeting on 17 November.

Over the coming months, the Council will work with the appointed operators to prepare their plans for all four libraries.

'ENDS'

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