

## **Branch libraries and Wood Green library update**

A number of surveys were undertaken in autumn 2018 to establish the condition of the existing buildings from a health and safety, compliance and condition perspective. The information gathered was analysed and a programme of works to address compliance / health and safety issues commenced in late January 2019 and is due to complete in March/ April this year. We are currently reviewing the extent of the works required to establish when is the most appropriate time to do them. The options being to start them as soon as possible or to undertake them as part of the improvement works.

A design team was appointed in December 2018 with the preliminary objective of undertaking a feasibility study that will help establish the full scope of the improvement works. The design team reviewed the initial project brief for the improvements (including the installation of new IT and CCTV cameras) and the potential additional works to the libraries such as access within Muswell Hill. Engagement with customers and stakeholders (including staff and friends of the library) was undertaken in November 2018 to get feedback on the initial strategic space planning of furniture and this feedback has been considered as part of the design development. Additionally, we are working with our building management team looking at how to integrate all or part of the maintenance works within the improvements. All of this information will be collated within a series of feasibility reports that will enable us to finalise the project brief and set out an overall project programme with a strategic phasing plan.

Meetings with friends' groups are taking place in March/April with a view to public displays and drop in sessions of designs and draft programme by May 2019 to get feedback from individuals and stakeholder groups.