

**Libraries, Archives & Information Service  
Central Library  
Sheffield**



To: Mr M Smith

4 November 2016

Dear Mr Smith

**Written responses to your two questions submitted to the Safer and Stronger  
Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, 20 Oct 2016**

Regarding Item 7 Library Review 2016 - Future Support Arrangements For Volunteer  
Run Libraries

**Your Questions**

Q1. Could Walkley Library / Broomhill Library please be considered for re-staffing  
ASAP?

Q2. Could the council write to the government & otherwise make representations to  
request funds to rescue libraries & re-staff Sheffield Libraries?

**Responses**

Cllr Jack Scott Cabinet Member for Community Services and Libraries responded;

A1. 'No', and the reasons would be contained in the written response, which are:

In response to significant budget cuts a decision was taken by Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup>  
February 2014 to agree a new operating model for community libraries. This  
resulted in Walkley becoming an Associate Library and Broomhill becoming a Co-  
delivered library. The budget reduction target in 2014/15 at £1.669 million meant  
that sufficient savings could not simply be made by continuing to cut back services  
while still delivering a comprehensive service. It was recognised that a completely

fresh review of the library service was required if as many libraries as possible were to be kept open. With the support of volunteers there have been no library closures to date in Sheffield. There are no plans to re-consider the decision take in 2014.

A2. 'Yes', and we do make ongoing representations to central Government regarding the extremely unfair cuts that Sheffield has suffered for the last six years. However the reality of such significant budget cuts - which are due to continue for the foreseeable future - make it unlikely that re-staffing with paid library staff would be top of the list of things that the Council would want to do if such resources were to be found to reverse the cuts.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Partridge'.

Nick Partridge  
Service Manager  
Libraries Archives and Information Service