

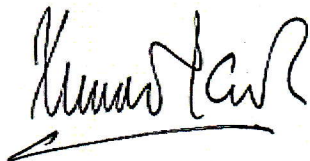
Nothing will be agreed until a good alternative temporary storage place has been found for the 250,000 books and other material currently stored in the basement areas.

Whilst this is not finance driven, the scheme would provide a rental income scheme to the Library service. It would also reduce the running costs of the building e.g. reducing NNDR (business rates) by £45K (ish) and utilities costs, which are high in such a building. This is important, as I don't think anyone really appreciates quite how serious the proposed revenue reductions to Local Government are, and how we will have to be increasingly creative in how we use our assets.

Finally, this is not my personal mission. We have not made any decisions and the Mayor will consider all the evidence, with advice from myself and other Cabinet Members before deciding what to do.

I hope this is helpful.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Cook', with a horizontal line underneath.

Simon Cook  
Assistant Mayor, Culture and Community Safety