**Consultation on Proposed Changes to Prestonpans Library and Aldhammer House**

**Questions and comments made so far in the consultation have been answered below**

Q1. Will there be a loss of library expertise with the introduction of “generic staff”?

**A1. Staff are working between the library and area office currently in order to gain knowledge of each other’s work. Staff located in Aldhammer House have been working from the library since May 2015. There will be no loss of expertise.**

Q2. Will the library stock be reduced? There are empty shelves in the library.

**A2. A recent stock take has been carried out and stock which was old or no longer being borrowed was removed. However, this stock is now being replaced and the library will have the same number of books as before. The library stock is being moved into a smaller area but the amount of stock is not reducing.**

Q3. Will there be no defined teenage space?

**A3. A smaller area has been identified for teenage stock within the adult lending area. The number of books, however, has not been reduced. There will also be a seated area adjacent to the computer suite which teenagers can use to access the Wi-Fi as they do at present. Changes to the teenage area have been as a result of a reduction on lending on teenage books.**

Q4. Will the library become less of a community service?

**A4. With the bringing together of various services the library will become even more of a community hub rather than less. The Community room within the building will remain available as it currently is.**

Q5.Where can groups meet when the reference area is no longer accessible?

**A5. Groups who currently meet in the reference area will be able to use the community room or the meeting/seated area by the computer suite.**

Q6. The calm and quiet of the library will be lost.

**A6. Libraries are no longer traditionally quiet places. We regularly welcome school classes to the library and pre-school children attend Bookbug sessions twice a week. However, a quiet corner can usually be found.**

Q7. Aldhammer House is only being released to provide development income.

**A7. Aldhammer House is underutilised and could be released for other purposes. A separate consultation on Aldhammer House will take place at a later stage.**

Q8. Will the community room still be available for people to use?

**A8. The community room will be available for groups to use as at present.**

Q9. Will privacy be an issue? Will the interview rooms be soundproofed?

**A9. The library will benefit from soundproofed interview rooms. At present there is no private interview space which is a problem for customers currently in the library.**

Q10. Will there be problems with the public computers being out of sight of staff?

**A10. The computers will be in a quieter area so that users will be able to concentrate away from the bustle of the main desk. However, a pod will also be place in this area for staff to work from. CCTV is located within the building and staff will either be present in the area or can monitor the area via the CCTV.**

Q11. It is wrong to use a Carnegie Library as anything other than a library.

**A11. Andrew Carnegie believed in the “purposes of public interest and social and educational advancement”. Most libraries are now providing a wide variety of services and this is set to continue. The library will still be a library.**

Q12. There is little space for seating.

**A12. Seating has been reduced but there will still be a meeting/seated area by the computer suite as well as the community room.**

Q13. Will there be fewer staff able to deal with complex enquiries meaning customers of council services will not receive the undivided attention of staff?

**A13. Bringing staff from the library and the area office into one building will increase the number of staff and so allow staff more time to deal with individuals and not less.**

Q14. The desk is too close to the children’s area.

**A14. The desk is currently beside the children’s area so there will be no change.**