

## **10B : ANNUAL LIBRARY PLAN 2001**

Report of Cabinet Member for Community Services.

- 1 Annual Library Plans have been a statutory requirement since 1998, and are assessed by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The Library Plan 2000 was given a top score of 3, and was even rated as 'underselling itself in terms of its achievements'. The Plan was praised for its 'very well developed medium term strategy with clear aims and objectives'.
- 2 A key feature of this year's Plan is the impact of the Public Library Standards which came into force on 1 April 2001, and the performance of the Library Service against the Standards. Top quartile performance against the Standards is equated to Best Value performance. Library authorities were also directed to report on their policies for services to children, socially excluded people, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities, and the accompanying service targets.
- 3 The Standards and the Annual Library Plan are extremely valuable in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the Library Service, and the medium term strategy shows how the Service will build on its strengths and develop those areas where its performance is still striving to meet new demands.
- 4 The Library Plan 2001 was presented by senior officers to an informal gathering of Members on 9 November, giving them an opportunity for discussion, and was well received.

**MARGARET DEAR  
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**