

19 July 2017: Bathnes Cabinet - Library Consultation (item 13)

Credentials

- Thank you for hearing me, ahead of library consultation opening tomorrow (20th)
- I'm a leading consultation adviser, hired by Chief Executives and Chairs of several globally-respected UK organisations to lead major consultations:
 - **BAA Heathrow, Transport for London, Royal Shakespeare Company, Bristol Old Vic, Colston Hall, PwC/Dept for Int. Development**
- I work with local & national government, from Numbers 10 and 11 downwards.
- This is my bread and butter and I am well respected for it.

My Professional Concerns

- I've been extremely concerned at what I have witnessed over our library this year.
- I have dedicated my career to advising people like yourselves who end up - often by accident - causing distress and offence to their local population...
- And of course, as you may know by know, experiencing misery in their own day to day lives from the stress this brings.
- You are our elected representatives - paid from our taxes.
- While I may protest about your decisions, I am honour-bound as a professional to say loudly & publicly that you can still turn this horrible situation around.
- **Leadership means exercising your right to pause and rethink.**

Tonight

- Tonight, you will consider the future of Bath Central Library - its co-location with the one stop shop.
- **But I strongly advise you to postpone because as things stand, it looks very much as through you are offering a false choice:**
 - The substantive question of whether to co-locate the library with another service is not going before the public
 - Your papers show that 1 of the 2 options is at very least challengeable under Disability Discrimination legislation - and it is by far the more expensive
 - You have even queered the pitch by sending a letter to parents through schools to put your case, before the consultation is even opened
- **Tonight, you can do something meaningful with your repeated statement that, "No final decision has yet been made":**

- Tonight, you can mandate every Committee and Department to assess the *holistic*, best value impact of co-locating the One Stop Shop & library
- Tonight, you - this new Cabinet - can show genuine leadership:
 - postpone this consultation,
 - and stop a headlong rush into an obsolete plan that will only harm our city.
- Tonight, you can stop this rush to folly.

Thank you.