

Libraries Public Consultation- Final Stage

23rd Aug – 27th Sept 2024



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Our Vision For Libraries



Protect Core Library Offer in local communities:

- Increased reading and literacy
- Cultural and creative enrichment
- Improved digital access and literacy
- Helping everyone achieve their full potential
- Healthier and happier lives
- Greater prosperity
- Stronger, more resilient communities



Work with the local community to better understand local aspirations and needs to shape services within the hub.



Deliver digital inclusion, targeted homes and money advice and access to jobs and skills for residents across the city.



Enable and empower partners to co-locate/run services and local groups.



Provide robust Information, Advice and Guidance including signposting and connections to internal and external resources and assets.

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Legislation: the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 (the Act)

- Public library services are funded and either run or commissioned by local government. Library authorities (unitary, county or metropolitan borough councils) have a statutory duty under the [Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964](#) 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons' for all those who live, work or study in the area (section 7). The Act allows for joint working between library authorities and councils may also offer wider library services (for example, loaning devices, running activities or providing access to Wifi and computers).
- In providing this service, councils must, among other things:
 - encourage both adults and children to make full use of the library service (section 7(2)(b))
 - lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area (in accordance with section 8(3))

Equalities Considerations

Throughout this consultation we are mindful of the equalities considerations that need to shape and inform any future delivery model:

- Ensure that the service offer supports and enhances the current digital inclusion for our communities (skills, connectivity and access).
- Offer study spaces in warm and well - equipped locations.
- Provide library services to areas of high socio, economic need.
- Focus on who is not using the library and how a library service offer could be tailored accordingly.
- Universal spaces '*something for everybody and a place to be*' approach which is all-age.
- Offer warm, safe spaces which act as gateways into support including access to domestic abuse support services, benefits access, social isolation, health and wellbeing.
- Ensure that through a range of Library services, the provision is accessible to all citizens within the community – physical locations, virtual offer and library services at home.

Purpose of consultation

People who live, work, or study in Birmingham are being **invited to help shape** the future of the library service for Birmingham.

- Birmingham City Council has a **legal duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service** for all those who “live, work or study and want to access the service” in the city. (Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964)
- Both locally and nationally, **the ways in which people use library services have changed significantly** over the last five or so years.
- As more people make use of technology in their day-to-day lives, **Birmingham has seen a change in those people visiting library buildings**. Since 2014 Birmingham has seen a reduction in people accessing Library buildings but has seen an uptake and more emphasis on online activities and events, mobile service and Library services at home.
- At the same time, like many other local authorities, Birmingham City Council continues to face a **significantly challenging financial situation** and is required to **make considerable budget savings** across all its services. The review of its highly valued library service aims to achieve greater efficiency and value for money, and the continuing provision of a library service.
- While savings have been announced, **no decisions have been made on what the library service will look like in the future**; the consultation and research outcomes from this exercise will **help inform any next steps**.

Growing Financial Constraints

There are two key areas under consideration for transformation: Community Libraries and Neighbourhood Advice and Information Services. The vision is to bring together services that can provide wider benefits for communities. We will therefore be combining the teams under one future budget.

Birmingham City Council has a provisional **planned saving target of £2,300,000*** against the two services against budgets of:

- Community Library Staff - £4,100,000
- Buildings - £1,270,000
- Neighbourhood Advice and Information - £350,000 (N.B this is supplemented with Household Revenue Account which directly supports council tenants)

Financial constraints are imperative to considering the case for change and needs analysis in this consultation.

*With flexibility for savings to be implemented in a different way depending on consultation responses.



Consultation Headlines



Birmingham City Council has two legal obligations to meet:

- (1) Present a balanced budget by 2026 (reducing service annual budgets by £2.3m)
- (2) Deliver a free citywide library service for all that meets statutory requirement



It's the Library Service's responsibility to meet those obligations by:

- (1) Consulting with Birmingham citizens to find out what they need from their libraries
- (2) Designing an efficient library service that meets the needs of people who, live work and study in Birmingham.



The First Phase of Consultation asked about what people want from their libraries:

- (1) Maintaining library buildings is very important
- (2) People value the role of Library staff



Drawing on the responses from the first phase of consultation we want to:

- (1) Provide detail on the options from the first phase of consultation
- (2) Give people an opportunity to share how proposed changes could be improved further

What the final stage of consultation aims to achieve

- Share a high-level summary of all the data collected in phase 1 of the consultation
- To revisit the options presented in the first phase of the consultation
- Share a proposed Library model for the whole city based on the recommended option
- Explain what the Library offer could look like for Birmingham
- Understand and gain the views of the above and seek any other ways in which the Library service can be offered that will incorporate the savings target

The consultation on the proposals for the Library service is open and no final decisions have been made. A decision will be made by the Council's cabinet after the final consultation has closed and the feedback has been analysed.

Summary of Stage 1 of Consultation

Be Heard Questionnaire
In Person and online sessions
Targeted engagement
Children's questionnaire
Libraries consultation inbox



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The phases of consultation and purpose of this report

- The first phase of public consultations took place during **4th April 2024 – 17th July 2024**, inviting people who live, work, or study in Birmingham to help shape the future of the Library service.
- The first phase of the consultation has mainly focused on **'current usage'** and securing feedback on the **'proposed delivery models'** via 7 feedback mechanisms.
- The final phase of the consultation will take place from **late August until the 27th September** and will focus on the **'future of Birmingham's Libraries'**. The final phase will include a map of the proposed provision and what the Library offer could look like for Birmingham, based on the data gathered from the first phase.
- The purpose of this report is to provide an early high-level summary of findings from the Be Heard online questionnaire which had the highest reach out of the 7 feedback mechanisms. This report will be added to as data from the other 6 forms of consultation are collated. Further reports will also emerge during August 2024, providing a deeper dive of key findings by Library, constituency, and key demographics.



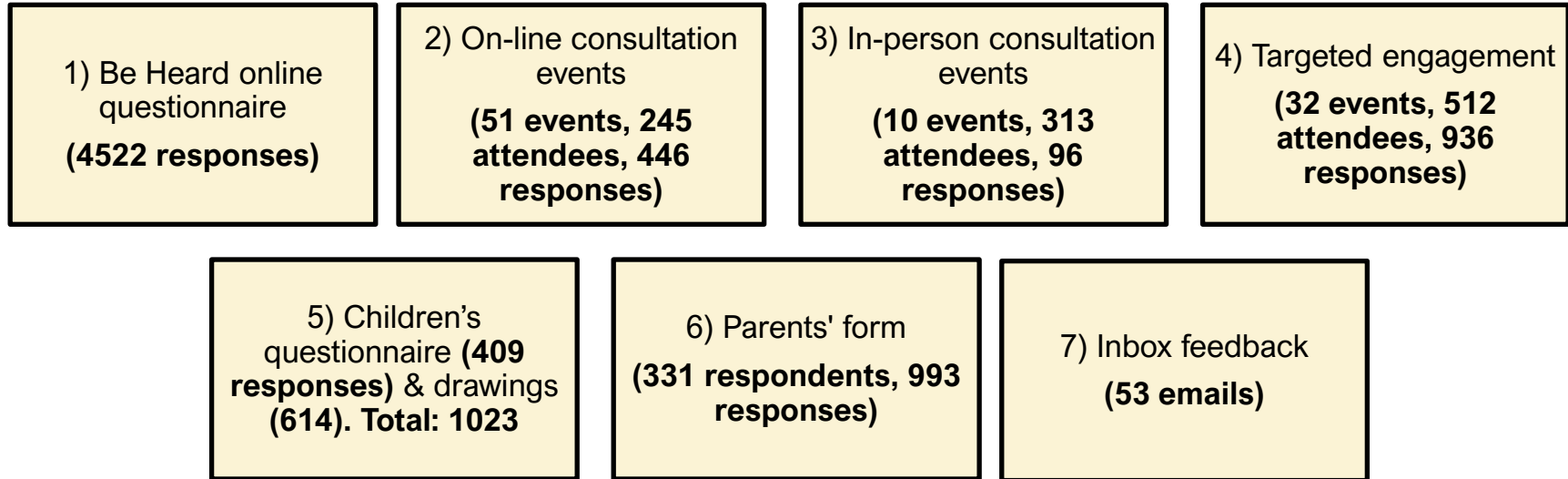
First stage Consultation feedback mechanisms –

(4th April-17th July 2024)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Be Heard online questionnaire	Online consultation events	In-person consultation events	Targeted engagement	Children’s questionnaire and drawings	Parents Form	Inbox Feedback
66 questions on the proposed changes to the Library Service and alternatives people may wish to propose	General comments on the proposed Library changes received in online forums per library in the day, and per constituency during the evening	General comments received on the proposed options, alternative suggestions and how to attract wider usage	Focussed specifically on capturing the views of those with protected characteristics (e.g. faith groups, ethnic groups, LGBTQ+) via focus groups, in-person feedback and forms	A child and young person targeted questionnaire and drawings to gather views from children and young people	Focussed engagement on parents, carers and legal guardians	Feedback which has been sent directly to an inbox about the Libraries consultation



Responses received per consultation



The below provides a breakdown of respondents who have participated in the Be Heard Questionnaire...

Who has completed the Be Heard online questionnaire?

- A total of **4522 respondents** have completed the **Be Heard online questionnaire**
- **Responses received by constituency:** Edgbaston (514), Erdington (265), Hall Green and Moseley (530), Hodge Hill and Solihull North (118), Ladywood (702), Northfield (543), Perry Barr (198), Selly Oak (474), Yardley (229), Sutton Coldfield (893), unknown (56)
- **Library members:** 95.3% of all respondents are a Library member
- **Age groups:** The majority of respondents were aged 25-49 (1862 respondents), those aged 60+ (1566 respondents) and those aged 50-59 (648 respondents). Those under the age of 16 were the least likely to respond to the survey (178 respondents)
- **Ethnicity:** The top 5 ethnic groups who completed the questionnaire were: 1) White British (74.3%), 2) Other White (5.4%), 3) Indian (5.1%), 4) Pakistani (4.3%), 5) Black British (2.5%)
- **Economic activity:** The majority of respondents who completed the questionnaire are working as an employee (44.1%) followed by those who are retired (26.4%)

These are the headline findings from the 4522 Be Heard questionnaire respondents, with more detailed findings per Library and constituency to emerge...

Headline findings on current usage

- **Top 5 Libraries respondents use the most often:** 1) Library of Birmingham (13.7%), 2) Mere Green Library (8.6%), 3) Kings Heath Library (7.8%), 4) Harborne Library (7.1%), 5) Stirchley Library (5.9%)
- **How often respondents visit a library:** The majority visit weekly (40.5%) and monthly (34.2%).
- **Top visit days:** 1) Saturday morning (52.7%) or Saturday afternoon (46.2%), with around 30% mentioning all weekdays during the morning and afternoon too. The top reason for not visiting a Library in the last 12 months was because 'opening hours don't work' for respondents
- **Top 5 services used in the Library:**
1) Borrow a book (94%), 2) Access to information/advice (53.9%), 3) Attend Library community events/activities/groups (51.6%), 4) Access to public PC (49.9%), 5) Space to meet people or study (42.1%)

Headline findings on current access requirements

- **Top travel methods:** 1) Walk (65.8%) 2) Car/motorbike (32.4%), 3) Bus (16.3%)
- **Travel distance:** The majority travel less than 1 mile to get to a Library (45.9%), followed by 38.6% who travel 1-2 miles
- **Website features visited most often:**
1) Reservations and renewals (58.4%), 2) Library catalogue (56.5%), 3) Finding nearest Library opening times (44.9%)
- **Online Library service which would be most of use:** 1) Free e-books to borrow (47.8%), 2) Historic photos and maps of Birmingham (47.5%), 3) Free audio books to download (43.2%)

Headline feedback on Library models

- **Extent respondents agree or disagree on co-locating services within the community hubs proposal:** Strongly disagree (1013), Neither agree nor disagree (963), Agree (910), Disagree (732), Don't know (597), Strongly agree (306)
- **Extent respondents agree or disagree on mixed-delivery proposal:** Neither agree nor disagree (1264), Agree (868), Don't know (771), Disagree (727), Strongly disagree (711), Strongly agree (180)
- **Top Library options BCC should consider:**
1) Council-run full time community Library hub (66.3%), 2) Contracting with a local community group/organisation to lead and deliver Library offer (31%), 3) Council run part time community Library hub (25.9%)
- **Top 5 interests at a community Library hub:** 1) Book lending services (86.5%), 2) Cultural events and activities (46.1%), 3) Children and youth services (37.2%), 4) Access to study space (37.1%), 5) Access to PCs (34.3%)

Respondents were asked about their interest in Community Asset Transfers and on the strategic vision, below is a summary of responses...

Interest received in Community Asset Transfers

- 664 (14.7%) of respondents are interested in a Community Asset Transfer
- Of this, **146 are interested a great deal in supporting the delivery of Library services in their area**, 232 don't know but would like more information, and 206 are a little interested, and 75 are not interested
- The majority (285) who have selected they are interested in Community Asset Transfers, have selected the reason for doing so because of their **'interest in volunteering opportunities to run, open and close buildings and maintain provision'**.
- **101 are interested in moving their business/group/service into an existing Library.** Around 70-80 respondents each have expressed an interest in sharing a building with a Library, having a Library occupy space on their premises, and offering a co-location site.

Headline feedback on the strategic vision

- **Extent respondents agree this is the right vision for Birmingham Libraries:** Somewhat agree (1572), Neutral (1287), Strongly agree (783), Strongly disagree (445), Somewhat disagree (434)
- **Extent respondents agree with the Libraries priorities moving forward:** Somewhat agree (1526), Neutral (1160), Strongly agree (1121), Somewhat disagree (389), Strongly disagree (325)
- **Extent respondents agree with the strategic framework proposed and actions:** Neutral (1975), Somewhat agree (1214), Strongly disagree (545), Somewhat disagree (484), Strongly agree (303)
- **Extent respondents agree or disagree that the mixed delivery proposals will safeguard the future of Birmingham Libraries:** Neither agree nor disagree (1223), Agree (909), Disagree (757), Strongly disagree (749), Don't know (639), Strongly agree (244)
- **Extent respondents agree with the Community Hub approach:** Neutral (1782), Somewhat agree (1230), Strongly disagree (607), Somewhat disagree (526), Strongly agree (376)

Summary of consultation data/dashboard

- A deeper-dive report per Library will be shared week commencing 2nd of September.
- A detailed report for Birmingham, reporting on all consultations will be shared week commencing 9th of September.
- The above will be shared as an attachment on www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/bcc/lcf24



Proposed Library Provision: Selection Methodology



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Library Provision selection process

The proposed provision has been selected using a priority list framework. Equal weighting has been applied to both Community Need and Usage & Access. This ranked the libraries from 1-35 with 1 being the highest priority for inclusion in the model.

Ward Level Community
Need

Weighting
50%

Includes multiple dimensions of deprivation, including **income, employment, health, education, crime, the living environment, and access to housing and services**. A localised comprehensive ward level Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) has been developed that reflects living conditions within communities.

Usage and Access

Weighting
50%

Understanding how those who 'live, work or study' in Birmingham **currently access and use the Community Libraries**.



Results of the priority list broken down by constituency

This table presents the priority ranking (number ranking in brackets) from 1-35, with 1 being the highest priority for inclusion in the model.

Hodge Hill & Solihull North	Ladywood	Erdington	Hall Green & Moseley	Yardley	Northfield	Perry Barr	Edgbaston	Selly Oak	Sutton Coldfield
Ward End (21)	Spring Hill (12)	Perry Common (6)	Sparkhill (2)	Acocks Green (1)	Kings Norton (7)	Tower Hill (3)	Harborne (4)	Yardley Wood (18)	Sutton Coldfield (23)
Glebe Farm (29)	Balsall Heath (22)	Kingstanding (15)	Kings Heath (9)	Sheldon (11)	Weoley Castle (10)	Birchfield (5)	Quinton (27)	Selly Oak (19)	Walmley (24)
Shard End (30)	Small Heath (28)	Erdington (17)	Hall Green (13)	South Yardley (16)	Northfield (14)	Handsworth (8)	Bartley Green (31)	Druids Heath (20)	Boldmere (26)
	Bloomsbury (33)				Frankley (25)	Aston (32)		Stirchley Library (35)	Mere Green (34)
	Library of Birmingham (not ranked)								



Library provision selection process (2)

After scoring, additional considerations have been applied to the model resulting in 5 key components that determine the proposed provision in the recommended option:

2. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- Online consultation
- Qualitative feedback
- Targeted consultations (young people, protected characteristics)

4. DATA ON USE & ACCESS (Priority List)

- Items Issued
- Members
- Events
- Community activities



3. DATA ON COMMUNITY NEED (Priority List)

- Income,
- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Crime
- Housing & Services
- Living Environment

5. PROPERTY DECISIONS and BUSINESS KNOWLEDGE

- Analysis of sites and premises costs
- Where the building is located
- What other assets/ amenities are in the area
- Income generation potential
- Regeneration plans/proposals



What the proposed model could look like for each option



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Summary of first phase of consultation options

Option	Scale of change of provision	Description	Option progressed?
1	No change	Do nothing and retain 35 Library buildings, Library of Birmingham, mobile offer, Library services at home offer and Prison Library.	No further progress as does not achieve savings. Alternative methods of generating funds to address the funding gap, have not been able to be secured within the given budgetary timelines. (See Appendix –slide 57)
2	High	Keep Library of Birmingham and reduce Community Libraries to 6 but invest in co-located larger spaces and operations including expanding the digital offer and a mobile service whilst also retaining Library services at home and the Prison Library.	No further progress as an option does not meet statutory requirements. (See Appendix –slide 57)
3	Medium	Move from current 35 Community Libraries to a minimum of 11 Community Library Hubs (including Library of Birmingham) open 6 days per week with a BCC offer of Library services and Early Intervention and Prevention with co-locations and partner-led provision opportunities. A minimum of 16 building-based library services	Detail included in pack.
4	Low	RECOMMENDED OPTION: Move from current 35 BCC Community Libraries to a mixed delivery model including BCC run Community Library hubs open 5 days per week providing Library and early intervention and prevention services, part-time BCC libraries and co-locations and partner-led provision opportunities. We estimate a combination of the council-run and community-led provision might secure circa 25 building- based library services.	Detail included in pack.

Key considerations for consultation

- **Community Library Hub locations**
 - The proposals include a full-time Community Library Hub in each constituency.
 - The Community Library Hubs and their locations are still to be confirmed based on feedback from the consultation.
- **Hours per Library**
 - Due to feedback from the first phase of consultation and the need to balance that with the savings, the more buildings retained, the less hours we can provide.
- **Building maintenance**
 - The retention of more library buildings will lead to a request for some capital investment.

Community Library Hub

BCC committed to keeping a minimum of 1 full time Library hub per constituency in both option 3 and 4 (recommended option).

The proposed hubs have been selected using a mixed criteria of:

- Location – selected to provide the widest possible geographical reach
- Building – selected to ensure building can be transformed into a hub



Library	Constituency
Acocks Green	Yardley
Druids Heath	Selly Oak
Erdington	Erdington
Handsworth	Perry Barr
King Heath	Hall Green
Library of Birmingham	Ladywood
Mere Green	Sutton Coldfield
Northfield	Northfield
Quinton	Edgbaston
Ward End	Hodge Hill & Solihull North

These locations may change as a result of the consultation.



Option 3-Proposed Model



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Suggested future options for Community Libraries – (Phase 1- Option 3)

#	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
3	<p>Move from current 35 Community Libraries to a minimum of 11 Community Library Hubs (including Library of Birmingham) open 6 days per week with a BCC offer of Library services and Early Intervention and Prevention.</p> <p>For the remaining libraries, work with the Voluntary and Community sector to enable groups to run libraries in their communities. This could be either as a hub and spoke model of delivery to wrap around the core-offer in the community.</p> <p>In addition, where appropriate co-locate library provision in suitable local buildings with suitable local organisations (e.g. colleges/wellbeing centre/GP surgeries).</p> <p>Based on current information on community interest and co-location opportunities, we estimate a combination of the council run and community led provision might secure a minimum of 16 building- based library services. This figure may change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of some service across city. • Offer greater number of services in one place. • Offer can be flexed to meet each community need. • Gives VCS an opportunity to expand and run community libraries via Community Asset Transfer and use their wider organisational resources to offer library 'services' through community venues and therefore widening their reach. • Support local organisations via colocation of offer. • Extended opening hours for the Hubs • Mixed team of staff able to support widespread queries. • Investment in hub buildings to futureproof for residents. • Expanded mobile offer will fill some gaps caused by necessary closures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could still result in a closure of some library buildings which the council or the community and voluntary sector will struggle to maintain without significant investment. • For some communities, increased travel time for residents.

Proposed Model –Option 3

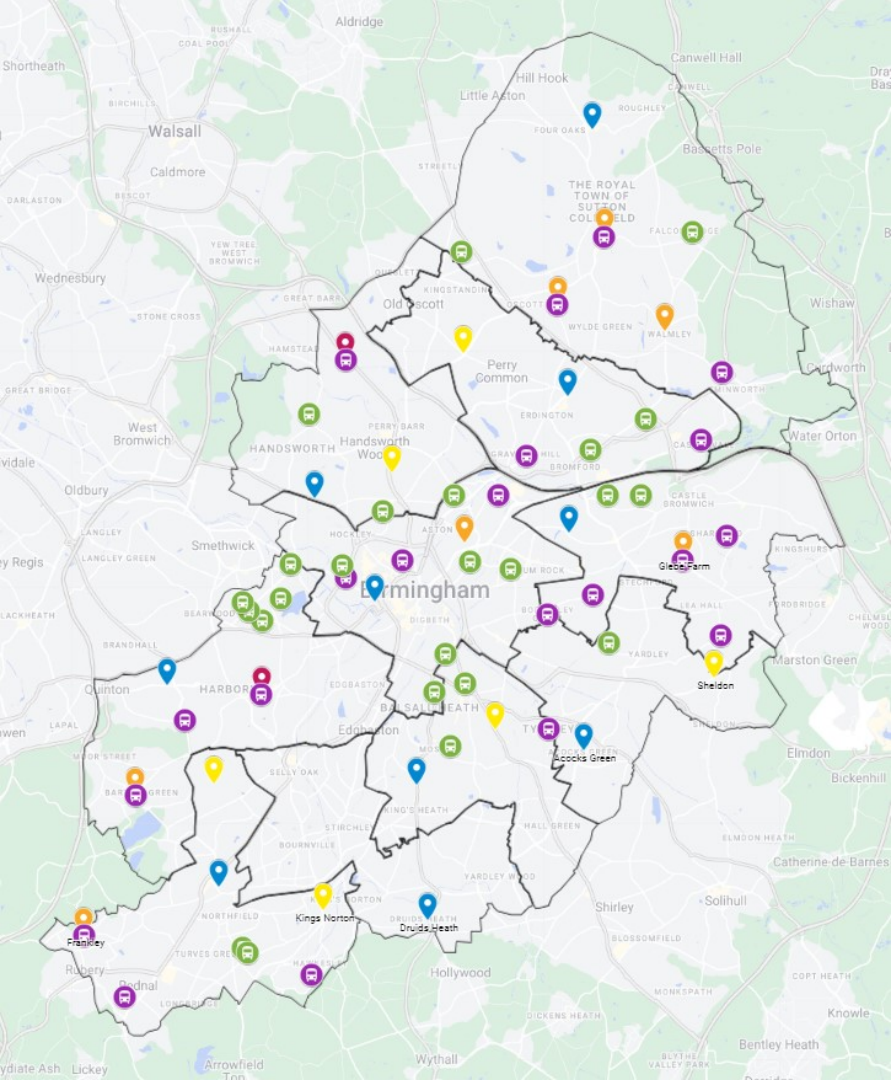
18 x BCC funded Library buildings (including Library of Birmingham)

This option provides citywide provision and part time hubs are open for approximately 24 hours per week. Opening part time hubs longer (than in option 4) does mean some libraries will close to achieve savings. Part-time libraries and co-locations have been selected using the highest-ranked libraries from the priority list.

Offer	Definition
10 X BCC full-time community Library hub offer (includes hub in Library of Birmingham)	Full-time BCC staffed Library in each constituency. Co-location of additional services, operating 35 hrs per week.
6 X BCC part-time Library offer	Part-time BCC staffed Library operating an approx. 24hrs per week. Opportunity for full time opening supported by internal and external partners, groups and the community.
2 X co-location Library offer	Part-time BCC staffed library provision in a non-BCC building operating an approx.24hrs per week. Opportunity for full-time opening supported by the community.
7 X partner led Library opportunities	The building remains open through partner-led service provision with no BCC funding <i>*conversations are being held with partners - some progressed in detail and some in initial stages</i>
1 X additional Library vehicle	Additional 21 mobile library stops (total of 45 stops with current vehicle)
11 X Library closures	Savings achieved by closing 9 BCC Libraries (2 are not owned by BCC)

High-level overview of the proposed offer (option 3)

Library	Constituency	Offer	Library	Constituency	Offer
Acocks Green Library (1)	Yardley	Full -time Community Library Hub	Northfield Library (14)	Northfield	Full-time Community Library Hub
Aston Library (32)	Perry Barr	Closure-Mobile stop provision	Perry Common Library (6)	Perry Barr	Part-time Library
Balsall Heath Library (22)	Ladywood	Closure-Mobile stop provision	Quinton Library (27)	Edgbaston	Full-time Community Library Hub
Bartley Green Library (31)	Edgbaston	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Selly Oak Library (19)	Selly Oak	Closure-Mobile stop provision
Birchfield Library (5)	Perry Barr	Part-Time Library	Shard End Library (30)	Hodge Hill & Solihull North	Closure-Mobile stop provision
Bloomsbury Library (33)	Ladywood	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Sheldon Library (11)	Yardley	Part-time Library
Boldmere Library (26)	Sutton Coldfield	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Small Heath Library (28)	Ladywood	Closure-Mobile stop provision
Druids Heath Library (20)	Selly Oak	Full-time Community Library Hub	South Yardley Library (16)	Yardley	Closure-Mobile stop provision
Erdington Library (17)	Erdington	Full-time Community Library Hub	Sparkhill Library (2)	Hall Green & Moseley	Part-time Library
Frankley Library (25)	Northfield	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Spring Hill Library (12)	Ladywood	Closure-Mobile stop provision
Glebe Farm Library (29)	Hodge Hill & Solihull North	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Stirchley Library (35)	Selly Oak	Closure-Mobile stop provision
Hall Green Library (13)	Hall Green & Moseley	Closure-Mobile stop provision	Sutton Coldfield Library (23)	Sutton Coldfield	Partner-led Library provision opportunity
Handsworth Library (8)	Perry Barr	Full-time Community Library Hub	Tower Hill Library (3)	Perry Barr	Part-time Co-Located Library
Harborne Library (4)	Edgbaston	Part-time Co-Located Library	Walmley Library (24)	Sutton Coldfield	Partner-led Library provision opportunity
Kings Heath Library (9)	Hall Green & Moseley	Full-time Community Library Hub	Ward End Library (21)	Hodge Hill & Solihull North	Full -time Community Library Hub
Kings Norton Library (7)	Northfield	Part-time Library	Weoley Castle Library (10)	Northfield	Part-time Library
Kingstanding Library (15)	Perry Barr	Closure-Mobile stop provision	Yardley Wood Library (18)	Selly Oak	Closure-Mobile stop provision
Mere Green Library (34)	Sutton Coldfield	Full -time Community Library Hub			



Map of Proposed Building Based Provision -Option 3

Key



Full-time Community Library Hubs



Part-time Libraries



Co-Located Libraries



Partner-led Opportunity

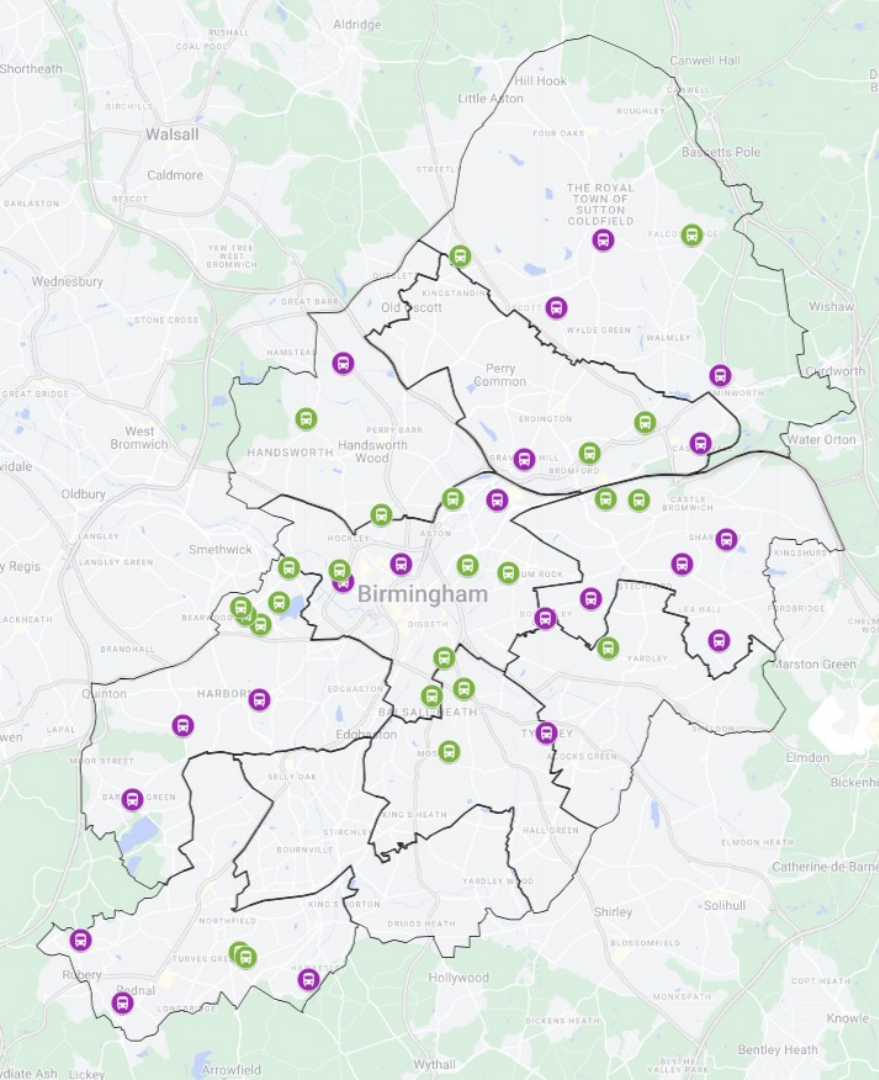


Current stops



Proposed additional stops





Map of Proposed Mobile Library Stops- Current and Proposed –option 3 and 4

Key



Current stops



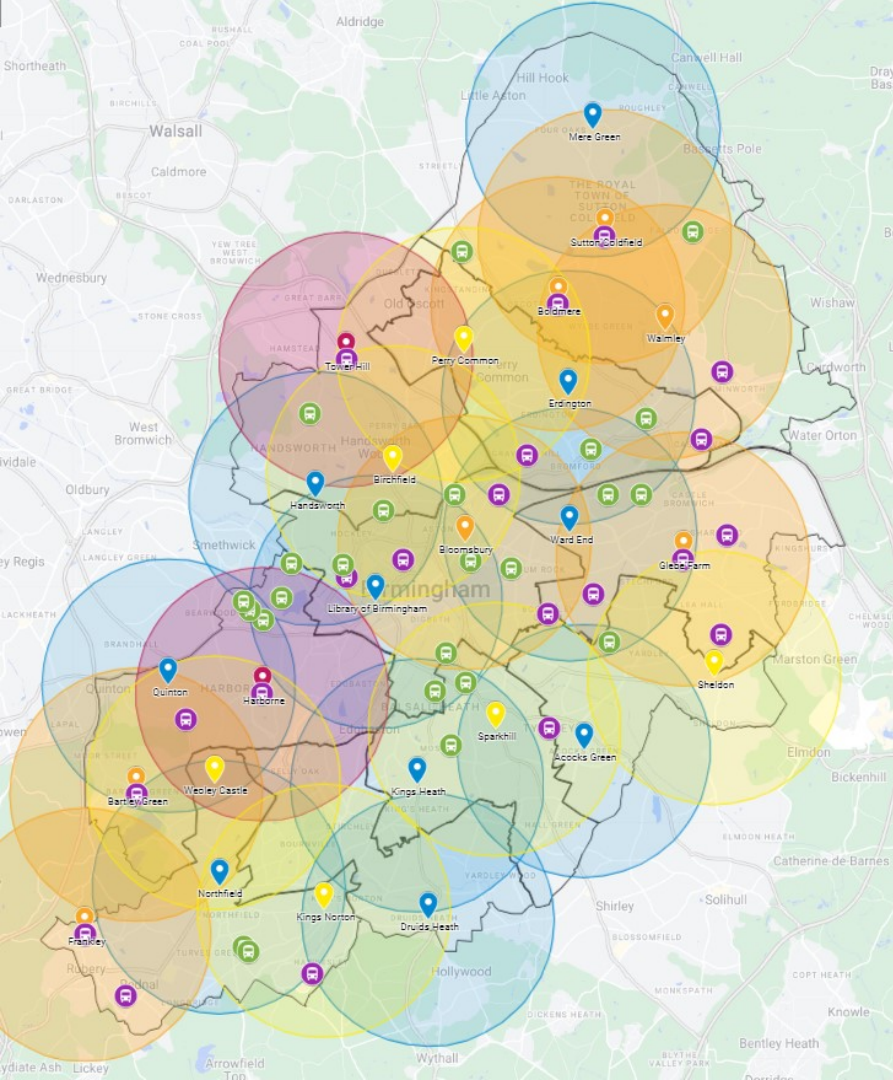
Proposed additional Stops*

*Additional stops will be created by purchasing 1 additional Mobile Library vehicle.

Stops were chosen based on:

- Sites where library buildings are subject to change
- Wards in areas of high IMD that have no current Library provision





Map of Proposed Building Based Provision-2-mile radius-Option 3

Key



Full time Community Library Hubs



Part time Libraries



Co-Located Libraries



Partner-led Opportunity



Current stops



Proposed additional stops

Map shows 2-mile radius around each Library building-based provision to help illustrate the reach of the offer across the city.



Option 4-Proposed Model (recommended option)



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Suggested future options for Community Libraries – Recommended Option

#	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
4	<p>Recommended: Move from current 35 Community Libraries to a mixed delivery model of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCC run Community Library hubs open 5 days per week providing library and early intervention and prevention services. • BCC Community Library hubs open part-time hours providing library and early intervention and prevention services. • BCC staff co-located with partners/community groups providing library services. • Community groups running library services via Community Asset Transfer. • Library of Birmingham. • Virtual (digital) Library. • Expansion of mobile provision. • Prison Library (Government grant received to deliver HMP Library) • Self Service. • Libraries at Home <p>Based on current information on community interest and co-location opportunities, we estimate a combination of the council run and community led provision might secure circa 25 building-based library services. This figure may change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater preservation of service across city. • Offer greater number of services to more communities. • Offer can be flexed to meet each community need. • Gives VCS an opportunity to expand and run community libraries via Community Asset Transfer and use their wider organisational resources to offer library ‘services’ through community venues and therefore widening their reach. • Support local organisations via co-location of offer. • Moves services from buildings no longer fit for use. • Extended opening hours in some areas. • Mixed team of staff able to support widespread queries. • Investment in hub buildings to futureproof for residents. • Expanded mobile offer will fill some gaps caused by necessary closures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could still result in a closure of some library buildings which the council or the community and voluntary sector will struggle to maintain without significant investment. This would be fewer buildings than option 3. • For some communities, provision would be through mobile library only. • Where library buildings have closed, increased travel time for those citizens not wishing to use mobile services.

Proposed Model –Option 4

28 x BCC funded Library buildings (including LoB)

This option provides citywide provision and part-time libraries are open for approx 14 hours per week with the opportunity for more hours with community and partner led provision. All current building- based provision to remain open, with savings delivered through reduced staff hours in some Libraries and the introduction of partner-led provision.

Offer	Definition
10 X BCC Full time community library hub offer (includes hub in Library of Birmingham)	Full-time BCC staffed Library in each constituency. Co-location of additional services. Operating 35 hrs per week
14 X BCC Part-time library offer	Part time BCC staffed Library operating an approx. 14hrs per week. Opportunity for full time opening supported by internal and external partners, groups and the community.
4 X Co-location library offer (2 buildings closed and relocated)	Part-time BCC staffed library provision in a non-BCC building operating an approx. 14hrs per week. Opportunity for full time opening supported by the community.
7 X Partner led library opportunities	The building remains open through partner-led service provision* with no BCC funding <i>*conversations are being held with partners - some progressed in detail and some in initial stages</i>
1x Additional library vehicle	Additional 21 mobile library stops (total of 45 stops with current vehicle)
1X Library remains closed	Building currently closed unable to reopen due to building condition

High-level overview of the proposed offer (Option 4)

BCC is committed to ensuring library services are provided in the designated Ward. However, this may not involve the existing library building. The decision will depend on the condition of the building, and efforts will be made to explore co-location options or alternative locations.

Library	Constituency	Offer	Library	Constituency	Offer
Acocks Green Library (1)	Yardley	Full-time Community Library Hub	Northfield Library (14)	Northfield	Full -time Community Library Hub
Aston Library (32)	Perry Barr	Part-time Co-Located Library	Perry Common Library (6)	Perry Barr	Part-time Library
Balsall Heath Library (22)	Ladywood	Part-time Library	Quinton Library (27)	Edgbaston	Full-time Community Library Hub
Bartley Green Library (31)	Edgbaston	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Selly Oak Library (19)	Selly Oak	Part-time Co-location library
Birchfield Library (5)	Perry Barr	Part-time Library	Shard End Library (30)	Hodge Hill & Solihull North	Part-time Library
Bloomsbury Library (33)	Ladywood	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Sheldon Library (11)	Yardley	Part-time Library
Boldmere Library (26)	Sutton Coldfield	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Small Heath Library (28)	Ladywood	Part-time Library
Druids Heath Library (20)	Selly Oak	Full-time Community Library Hub	South Yardley Library (16)	Yardley	Part-time Library
Erdington Library (17)	Erdington	Full- time Community Library Hub	Sparkhill Library (2)	Hall Green & Moseley	Part-time Library
Frankley Library (25)	Northfield	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Spring Hill Library (12)	Ladywood	Remains Closed-Mobile stop provision
Glebe Farm Library (29)	Hodge Hill & Solihull North	Partner-led Library provision opportunity	Stirchley Library (35)	Selly Oak	Part-time Library
Hall Green Library (13)	Hall Green & Moseley	Part-time Library	Sutton Coldfield Library (23)	Sutton Coldfield	Partner-led Library provision opportunity
Handsworth Library (8)	Perry Barr	Full-time Community Library Hub	Tower Hill Library (3)	Perry Barr	Part-time Co-Located Library
Harborne Library (4)	Edgbaston	Part-time Co-Located Library	Walmley Library (24)	Sutton Coldfield	Partner-led Library provision opportunity
Kings Heath Library (9)	Hall Green & Moseley	Full-time Community Library Hub	Ward End Library (21)	Hodge Hill & Solihull North	Full -time Community Library Hub
Kings Norton Library (7)	Northfield	Part-time Library	Weoley Castle Library (10)	Northfield	Part-time Library
Kingstanding Library (15)	Perry Barr	Part-time Library	Yardley Wood Library (18)	Selly Oak	Part-time Library
Mere Green Library (34)	Sutton Coldfield	Full-time Community Library Hub			

Map of Proposed BCC Building Based Provision- Option 4

Key



Full-time Community Library Hubs



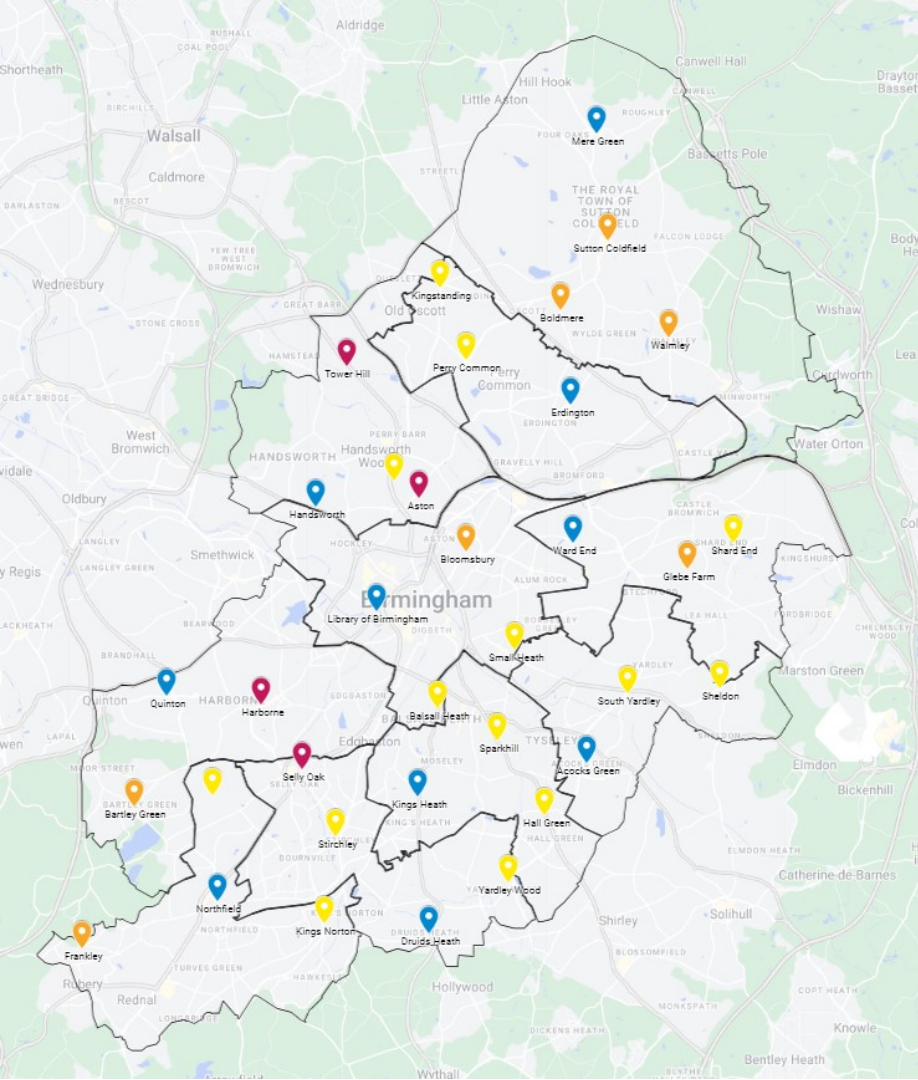
Part-time Libraries

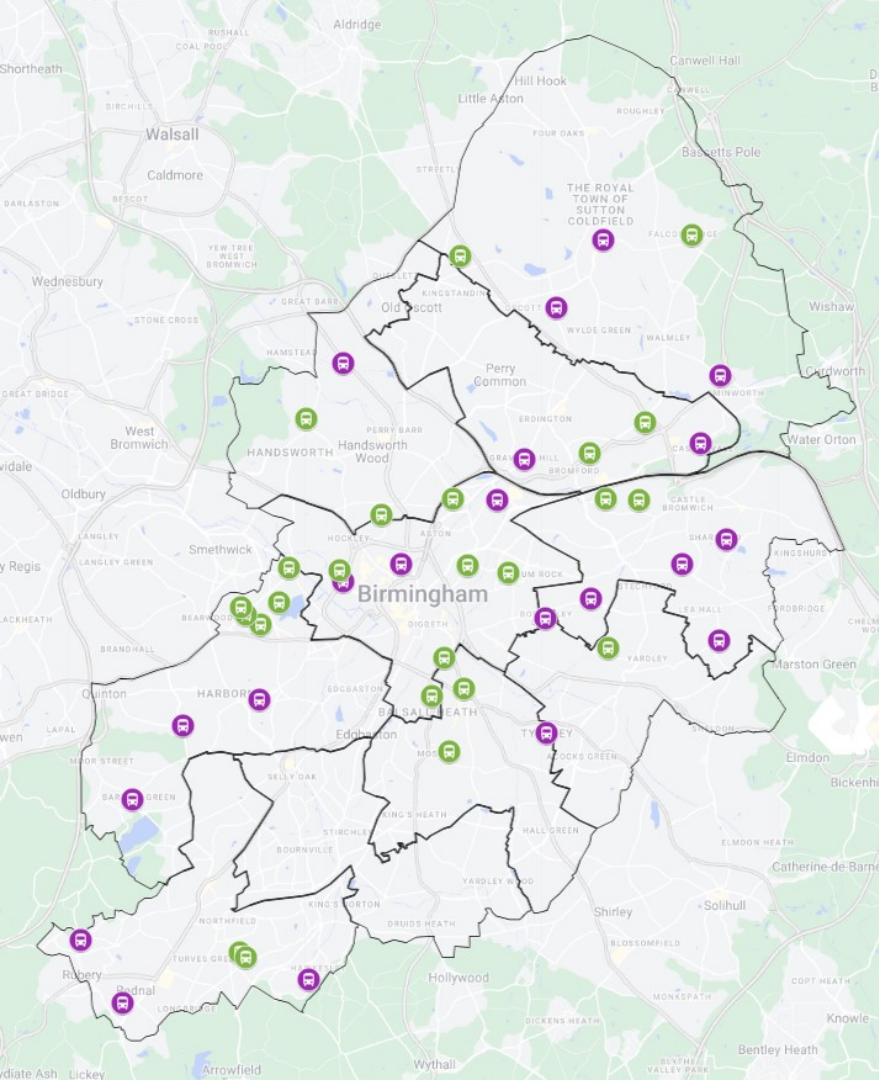


Co-Located Libraries



Partner-led Opportunity





Map of Proposed Mobile Library Stops- Current and Proposed – option 3 and 4

Key



Current stops



Proposed additional Stops*

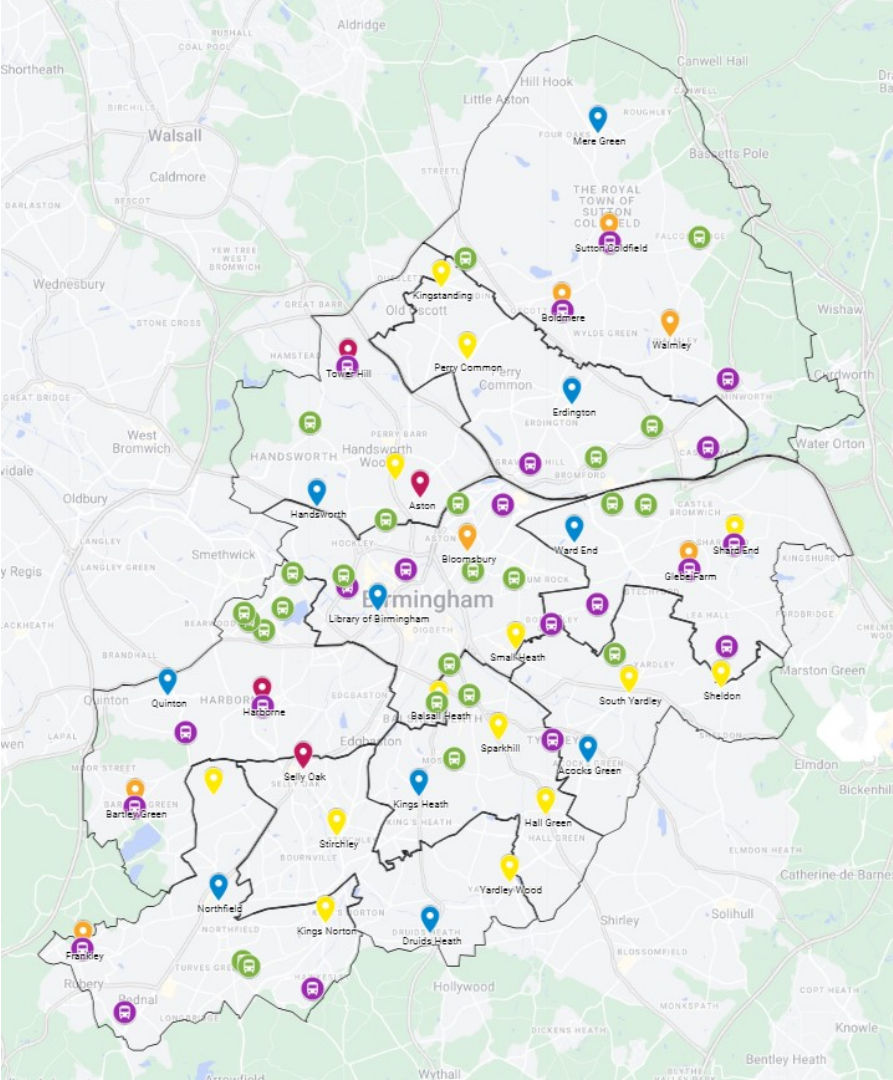
*Additional stops will be created by purchasing 1 additional Mobile Library vehicle.

Stops were chosen based on:

- Sites where library buildings are subject to change
- Wards in areas of high IMD that have no current Library provision



Map of BCC Proposed Building Based Provision-option 4



Key



Full-time Community Library Hubs



Part-time Libraries



Co-Located Libraries



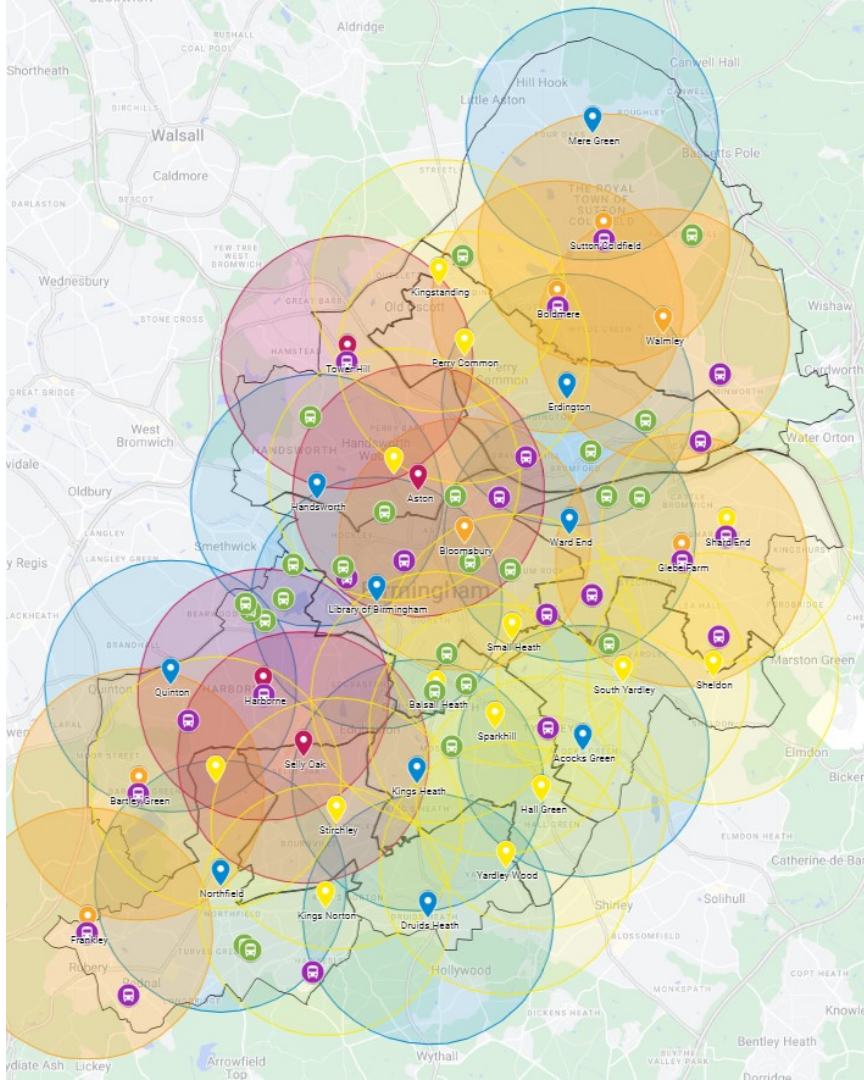
Current stops



Proposed additional stops



Map of BCC Proposed Building Based Provision 2-mile radius option 4



Full time Community Library Hubs



Part time Libraries



Co-Located Libraries



Partner-led Opportunity



Current stops



Proposed additional stops

Map shows 2-mile radius around each Library building-based provision to help illustrate the reach of the offer across the city.



Key differences in Option 3 and 4

Proposed	Option 3	Option 4
Number of buildings	Option 3 has fewer buildings than option 4 (18 BCC funded Libraries and a total of 25 Libraries including Partner-led)	Option 4 protects the greatest number of buildings (28 BCC funded Libraries, and a total of 34 Libraries including Partner-led)
Full-time Community Library Hubs-number of days open	6 days a week	5 days per week
Part-time Libraries-number of hours open	Approx. 24 hours (Opportunity for full time opening supported by internal and external partners, groups and the community)	Approx. 14 hours (Opportunity for full time opening supported by internal and external partners, groups and the community)
Savings achieved	Savings achieved from less buildings (closures) and Partner-led running and staffing buildings. If a Partner-led Library building is unsuccessful this will lead to a Library closure (please see slide 45-48 for more detail).	Savings achieved by shorter opening hours and Partner-led running and staffing buildings. If a Partner-led Library building is unsuccessful this will lead to a Library closure (please see slide 46-49 for more detail)

Community Library Hubs



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Community Library Hubs



- Community Library Hubs are warm, welcoming spaces for people to socialise and call their own. They are a place for relaxing and meeting new people. The network offers a variety of spaces that have different offers. These could be open on a full-time basis(35 hours per week).
- The aim would be to empower, motivate, and unite individuals by fostering knowledge, self-reliance, and innovation. Our ambition is to create inclusive environments, both in-person and online, where residents can access support, and be connected to their communities.



Community Library Hubs provide the opportunity to provide access to services differently

Core library offer
Online and digital Support
Accessing food Support
Money and debt
Jobs and skills
Housing Benefits
Health and well-being
Warm Welcome
General advice

Community Library Hub Service Opportunities



- Core Library Offer
- Computer access
- Homes and Money Offer: Income Maximisation (co location of the old NAIS model)
- Digital Inclusion support
- Support to access Food Pantries
- Warm welcome space
- Support to access education, employment and training
- Co-location of partner services, Health, DWP, NNS, Early Help
- Culture and well-being activities (all age)
- Promotion campaigns (health, more money in your pocket, local activities)
- Clubs and communities (reading, language, parental support)
- Connection to wider networks in the community
- Hire space available for community events



Partner-Led Library Opportunity



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Partner-led Library opportunities

As part of the first phase of consultation organisations and groups were invited to express interest* in running a Library building . This would mean the building and Library offer remains open through partner-led service provision with no BCC funding.

Partner-led arrangements could be in the form of:

- A Community Asset Transfer (CAT). A community organisations and/or voluntary groups own and manage their local community library building from which a library service could be delivered
- An organisation or group of organisations and/or voluntary groups manage and staff the building on Birmingham City Council's behalf
- An organisation or group of organisations and/or voluntary groups manage and staff Library provision in a non-BCC building
- An organisation provide funding for BCC to run the library with BCC staff

**Organisations and groups can still contact us through the Be Heard Questionnaire or mailbox if they would like to register their interest in a Partner Led Library opportunity*



Partner-led Library opportunities –risks and mitigation

Risk

Partner-Led Libraries will have BCC staff and funding removed. This puts Partner-Led Library provision at greater risk of not remaining open than the 28x BCC funded Libraries.

Mitigation

If any Partner-Led Library provision closes, then activities and events will be offered in local community and voluntary organisations' sites that will be tailored to the needs of that community (see appendix 3 slide 72). A Library mobile stop will be included which can also deliver tailored support such as job skills and homes and money advice etc.

The 28 x BCC funded Libraries will fulfil the statutory offer. We believe this model to be compliant with our statutory duty (see appendix 3 slide 71). We have utilised the Libraries shaping the future: good practice toolkit - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) to ensure we provide a service that is accessible to residents while recognising the constraints of council resources



Partner-led Library opportunities –progression

There are 7 Partner-Led Library Opportunities in option 3 and 4. Conversations are currently being held with partners - some have progressed in detail, and some are in the initial stages.

Library	Constituency	Offer
Bartley Green Library	Edgbaston	Initial conversations with community organisation
Bloomsbury Library	Ladywood	CAT opportunity
Boldmere Library	Sutton Coldfield	Exploring options to retain the Library Service with Partners
Frankley Library	Northfield	Initial conversations with a partner organisation
Glebe Farm Library	Hodge Hill & Solihull North	CAT opportunity
Sutton Coldfield Library	Sutton Coldfield	Exploring options to retain the Library Service with Partners
Walmley Library	Sutton Coldfield	Exploring options to retain the Library Service with Partners



Core and Additional Library Services



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A core Library offer will be provided within each of the Birmingham City Council run Community Hub Libraries, ensuring access to:

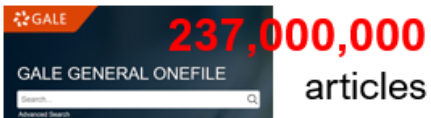


- A (reservations) service giving access to the city's stock.
- Online access, 24/7, to the Library catalogue, e-Books, e-Magazines and our e-Reference Library.
- A wide range of events and regular activities.
- A Children's Library delivering a range of children's activities, including trained staff in storytelling techniques and creative storytelling.
- Support for children's literacy by providing reading materials, and a range of reading-based activities.
- Support for adult literacy by providing suitable reading materials and events.
- Free access to the internet on Library computers and free wi-fi.
- Welcoming public spaces to visit and spend time in and provide a warm welcome.
- Access to skilled, trained and knowledgeable staff.
- Study space.
- Books and audio books to loan.



Additional Library Services (Current offer)

virtual-learning environment



Full text: Search across multiple sources including 20th century newspaper archive, reference books & academic papers



Practice from home on your PC



550 trades & business sectors covered: information, legislation advice & guidance

Birmingham records as early as



400+

visits / month



Library Services at Home

Mobile Library Service

25



stops and over 6 days per week



online-reading for pleasure



31,788 e-book titles
5,000 comics & graphic novels
142 subjects & genres
150+ popular magazine titles



Libby App e-reading



739 Audio titles 8,000+ hours of listening

Current newspapers on your mobile device

140+ countries, 60+ languages and 7000+ titles



pressreader

Follow the library service on social media



1 million web-views per month



6,500 engagements per day



60,000 blog reads per year

WordPress

How to get involved in the consultation



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How to have your say on Libraries-Final Consultation

[Birmingham City Council is asking for all those who live, work or study in Birmingham for their views, comments and feedback on the proposed changes outlined in this pack](#) We encourage both current library users and nonusers to be part of the consultation and share what more the service could offer.

This consultation presents proposed options for the savings required for Library Services. Proposals will be achieved, depending on the outcome of consultation.

Please help to ensure we develop the right choices for Birmingham by having your say:

Consultation period: 23rd Aug 2024 to Friday 27th September 2024

- Be Heard questionnaire
- In-person timetable
- FAQ

The above can be found at www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/bcc/lcf24

The Be Heard questionnaire is also available in hard copy at all Birmingham Libraries.

You can also send comments into the Libraries Public Consultation email inbox: LibrariesPublicConsultation@birmingham.gov.uk

For more information on these and other subjects, please go to: [Web link to the Birmingham City Council web page for all public consultations currently taking place, linked to budget savings proposals](#)

APPENDICES

Case for Change

Community Libraries Usage & Access Data Fields and Community Need Data Fields

Additional information on Options



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Appendix 1

Case for change- This section outlines the reasons and logic used to identify the need and opportunity to change the current libraries service



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Libraries service are designed to meet need

Library services are designed to address Birmingham's biggest challenges, but those challenges are now more profound

Birmingham is a city of huge potential, but, like many of the UK's biggest cities, it has some deep economic and social issues that act as stumbling blocks to people, communities and the city.

- Equality and inclusion
- Unemployment, skills and the local economy
- Health and wellbeing
- Community resilience, cohesion and living standards
- Climate emergency
- Opportunities for children and young people

City of diverse local needs

Birmingham is a vast patchwork of neighbourhoods and communities. Libraries need to be designed to meet the different needs of different people in different locations. Using research and statistics, library services should be designed with particular social and economic outcomes in mind.

- Census information
- Deprivation indicators
- Health statistics
- Educational attainment
- Community-led research and recommendations

Since 2017 (the last public consultation on libraries), it has been challenging to deliver a Library Service due to staffing budgets, libraries repairs and provision which has not been targeted to specific community need. This case for change seeks to re-establish a library offer with complementary services which is more targeted in areas of need.

Current Tiered Library Provision

There are 35 community Library buildings spread across the city. Libraries operate on a tiered model:

Tier 1: Main Libraries – There are 19 tier 1 libraries, and they provide the widest range of services. They are open for 35 hours per week. All these libraries operate in a council-staffed mode for 35 hours. Some tier 1 sites may have partner agencies based within them.

Tier 2 libraries-There are 9* tier 2 libraries that deliver a tailor-made offer to local communities. They open for 21 hours per week by Council staff.

Tier 2/3 Libraries-There are 2 tier 2/3 libraries, these are hybrid libraries and operate for the same time as Tier 2 libraries (21 hours)but are delivered with community or partner involvement who offer additional opening hours.

Tier 3 Libraries- There are 4 tier 3 libraries. These Libraries are professionally supported by Birmingham City Council but led by local communities and volunteers. The Council work in partnership with local communities or other organisations in the city to provide library services in these locations. They are open 15 hours a week.

*Spring Hill Library was the 10th tier 2 Library (35th) however, Spring Hill Library has been closed since Dec 2022 due to a boiler that requires replacement.



Building information

Maintenance cost

Adequate maintenance has not been possible for the past decade. Staffing levels have been streamlined over the same period resulting in many of the city's libraries operating on a part-time or restricted basis with several short notice closures.

Short notice closures and door service

Libraries have needed to close or offer a door service (drop off items only service) for 5% of the total amount of opening hours. 79% of closures was due to staffing issues, 11%, was due to extreme weather, 3%, was due to staff training. The remaining 7%, covered a range of reasons including door failures, power cuts, fire alarm failures, H&S issues, bus strikes, maintenance and colocation (schools being closed).

Buildings in Trust

- Bartley Green
- Stinchley
- Selly Oak (not currently running as a Library, Library now co-located at Selly Oak Touchbase Pears)



Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, and Environmental factors

National and local factors that impact on how libraries operate

▪ **Political considerations**

Library services up and down the UK are shaped by a combination of national and local political policies and priorities. Nationally, libraries are expected to deliver (a) Cultural and creative enrichment. (b) Increased reading and literacy. (c) Improved digital access and literacy. (d) Help for everyone to achieve their full potential. (e) Healthier and happier lives. (f) Greater prosperity. (g) Stronger, more resilient communities. In Birmingham, libraries need to contribute to a series of key strategies including Early Intervention, Equality and Community Cohesion, Prosperity and Opportunity, Digital Inclusion, Culture, Heritage & Tourism.

▪ **Economic considerations**

Library services are shaped by economics in two ways:

- (1) Learning, information and advice services provided by libraries need to respond to local economic needs – i.e. Job Skills or Warm Welcome.
- (2) Birmingham City Council finances impact heavily on the numbers and types of library services that can be delivered to citizens.

▪ **Social considerations**

Public libraries were invented by the Victorians to help address the severe and negative impact of social inequality. Combating social inequality and improving people's life-chances remains a core library objective today. Public libraries should be culturally accessible places that offer information, advice, and well-connected signposting to wider support services – this core function needs to be central to any service redesign alongside the introduction of new data capture tools to inform more accurate metrics that sufficiently reflect changing contemporary need, use and expectation.

Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, and Environmental factors continued.

▪ Technological considerations

Internet and smart phone technologies have transformed how people find information, access services, and communicate with each other. It impacts on *what* people want from their libraries and *how* they want to access their library services.

- (1) **What people want: From information to interpretation.** Vast amounts of raw data and basic information is freely available online. Library visitors increasingly want help with interpreting and using information rather than just getting hold of information.
- (2) **How people want to access services: More online 24/7.** With retail, financial services and health services increasingly moving online, more people expect similar services from their libraries.

▪ Legal considerations

In terms of providing library services, Birmingham City Council is legally required to respond to two main pieces of legislation.

- (1) **Local Government Finance Act 1988** requires all local authorities to balance their income and expenditure. When that is particularly difficult, national government can appoint commissioners to help councils balance their books.
- (2) **Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964** requires all local authorities to provide its citizens with 'comprehensive and efficient' library services. While it is up to each council to interpret what 'comprehensive and efficient' means, central government can review any changes and force councils to rethink or explain why they are changing how their libraries are run.

▪ Environmental considerations

Most of Birmingham's library buildings are over 50 years old. They were not designed to be energy efficient. Retro-fitting or converting historic buildings for new greener types of heating, for example, is expensive and sometimes not possible. Relocating to more environmentally friendly buildings may need to be an option to consider.

Key Findings from Needs Analysis

- There is continued use of digital library resources
- Over the past 10 years the needs of the community have warranted changes in skills required in Library staff as people access library buildings for a range of reasons e.g. benefits and welfare advice, information, access to groups and to use IT equipment
- Analysis illustrates that those who are more deprived are less likely to access libraries
- The current provision of Community Libraries is not concentrated in the centre of the city where there is greatest need
- The most popular/most attended events that Community Libraries hold are Children's events
- Since 2014 usage of libraries declined due to the introduction of the current tiered delivery model, whilst there continues to be an overall decline this does not apply to all Libraries



There is a greater need for Economic Inclusion activity

Libraries already provide economic inclusion activity (some examples below). However, there is an opportunity to expand this offer and combine with other council services that also focus on these areas (such as Adult Education Services and the Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service).

- Immigration Legal advice provided in person and remote (co-ordinated by team)
- Comprehensive ESOL collection for those looking to improve English skills plus IELTS for IELTS examinations
- National Careers Service: Weekly attendance delivering career advice in person and remote
- Job Fairs in Partnership with DWP & NHS
- Driving skills – online theory test and hazard perception suitable for DSA test in the UK
- UK citizenship test
- Weekly Digital Coder Dojo Club held Tuesdays from 1700-1830 for young learners ages 7-17 to learn coding skills
- Job researching across information published in newspapers, journals, reference works and open access sources. Job Library & dedicated computers for job searching, job applications, CV writing

There is currently high demand for Benefit & Welfare advice across the city and there are opportunities to explore to bolster this service within libraries provision.



Growing Financial Constraints

There are two key areas under consideration for transformation. Community Libraries and Neighbourhood Advice and Information Services. The vision is to bring together services that can provide wider benefits for communities. We will therefore be combining the teams under one future budget.

Birmingham City Council has a provisional **planned saving target of £2,300,000*** against the two services against budgets of:

- Community Library Staff - £4,100,000
- Buildings - £1,270,000
- Neighbourhood Advice and Information - £350,000 (N.B this is supplemented with Household Revenue Account which directly supports council tenants)

Financial constraints are imperative to considering the case for change and needs analysis in this consultation.

*With flexibility for savings to be implemented in a different way depending on consultation responses.



Summary

- For more than a decade, tightening budgets for maintenance, staffing, and technology have made Birmingham Libraries' current delivery model inefficient and not effective.
- The current section 114 situation means that library budgets have been further reduced.
- The need for free and facilitated access to information, culture, and advice is high in Birmingham and very high for some communities.
- Public libraries in Birmingham have a long and strong track record of adapting to new demands and changed circumstance.
- A fundamental review and redesign of the scope and delivery mechanisms used to provide information and library services in Birmingham offers the best route towards a long-term, effective, efficient, and sustainable solution
- The expectations of library users and other Birmingham citizens has changed. More people are reading e-books. More people would like the convenience of online services. Shared community spaces are in high demand. Many citizens are looking for advice and help with accessing Council and other public services.



Appendix 2

Community Libraries Usage & Access data fields
Community Need data fields



Community Libraries Usage & Access data fields

The Community Library usage and access data source is taken wherever available from the Sypdus Integrated Library Management system. Where data was not currently available, the source of data was provided by the Community Library service. The reporting period of January 2023 – December 2023 was used to ensure consistency across the Usage and Access dataset. Each of the Usage & Access data fields are equally weighted,

Library name	Number of participants 'completed' in the Summer Reading Challenge or similar initiatives (in England).
Items issued	Number of participants 'registered' in the Birmingham Winter Reading Challenge.
Tier	Number of participants who 'completed' the Birmingham Winter Reading Challenge.
Open hours per week	Number of reading groups supported per library service. (Total number of event sessions: Includes Adults & Children's)
Computer (PC) bookings	Number of reading groups supported per library service. (Total number of attendees at event sessions: Includes Adults & Children)
Number of event sessions: Councillor's Advice Sessions	Number of events focused on digital support (Total number of event sessions: Coding & IT Clubs (Includes Adults & Children's))
Number of attendees: Councillor's Advice Sessions	Number of events focused on digital support (Total number of attendees at event sessions: Coding & IT Clubs (Includes Adults & Children))
Number of event sessions: Room Hired Events	Number of borrows who took out book loans by Library (Registered Home Location)
Number of attendees: Room Hired Events	Current number of members
Number of event sessions: Activities for Adults	New memberships
Number of attendees: Activities for Adults	Members Re-registered
Number of event sessions: Adult activities out of the building	Members Deleted
Number of attendees: Adult activities out of the building	Number of desk spaces made available within libraries on average each day
Number of event sessions: National Initiatives	
Number of attendees: National Initiatives	
Number of event sessions: Under 5's events/activities	
Number of attendees: Under 5's events/activities	
Number of event sessions: Over 5's events/ activities	
Number of attendees: Over 5's events/ activities	
Number of event sessions: Teenage activities	
Number of attendees: Teenage activities	
Number of event sessions: School visits (internal/External to the library)	
Number of attendees: School visits (internal/External to the library)	
Number of event sessions: Nurse & Playgroups visits (internal/External to the library)	
Number of attendees: Nurse & Playgroups visits (internal/External to the library)	
Number of event sessions: UK online	
Number of attendees: UK online	
Number of event sessions: ESOL activities	
Number of attendees: ESOL activities	
Number of event sessions: Author visits	
Number of attendees: Author visits	



Community Need data fields

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (known as IMD) is a standard and universally used central Government measure of relative deprivation for communities in England published in 2019. The City Observatory are using the data sources that they have, to create a more up to date version.

The IMD combines data about income, employment, education, health, crime, living environment and barriers to housing and services.

All areas in England are ranked from most deprived to least deprived and are then split into 10 equal groups called deciles. Decile 1 contains the most deprived areas and Decile 10 the least deprived. An IMD score is identified for each library community, showing which library catchment areas are more deprived than others. **This information is essential to help assess the need and potential demand for local library services and the ability to access these.**

The weighting of the Community Needs data fields are in line with the English Indices of Deprivation 2019. In the current English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IoD2019) seven domains of deprivation are considered and **weighted** as follows, Income. (22.5%) Employment. (22.5%) Education. (13.5%) Health. (13.5%) Crime. (9.3%) Barriers to Housing and Services. (9.3%) Living Environment. (9.3%)

Income Deprivation Domain

Library Name

Adults and children in Income Support families

Adults and children in income-based Employment and Support Allowance families

Adults and children in Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit families not already counted, and whose equivalised income (excluding housing benefit) is below 60 per cent of the median before housing costs

Asylum seekers in England in receipt of subsistence support, accommodation support, or both

Adults and children in Universal Credit families where no adult is classed within the 'Working - no requirements' conditionality regime

Income Deprivation Domain numerator

Individual Indicators comprising the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index Numerator

Individual Indicators comprising the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index

Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index Numerator

Employment Deprivation Domain

Claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (both contribution-based and income-based), women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64

Claimants of Employment and Support Allowance (both contribution-based and income-based), women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64

Claimants of Incapacity Benefit, women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64

Claimants of Severe Disablement Allowance, women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64

Claimants of Carer's Allowance, women aged 18-59 and men aged 18-64

Claimants of Universal Credit in the 'Searching for work' and 'No work requirements' conditionality groups.

Employment Deprivation Domain numerator

Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain

Key Stage 2 attainment

Key Stage 4 attainment

Secondary school absence

Staying on in education post 16

Entry to higher education

Adult Skills

English language proficiency

Adult skills and English language proficiency indicators - combined

Health Deprivation and Disability Domain

Years of potential life lost

Comparative illness and disability ratio

Acute morbidity

Mood and anxiety disorders

Crime Domain

Violence

Burglary

Theft

Criminal damage

Barriers to Housing and Services Domain

Road distance to a post office

Road distance to a primary school

Road distance to general store or supermarket

Road distance to a GP surgery

Household overcrowding

Homelessness

Housing affordability

Appendix 3

Additional Information on Options

Compliance to Statutory Duty

High level Equality Summary on Partner-led Libraries



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Additional information on option 1 & 2

Option	Description	Option progressed?
1	Do nothing and retain 35 Library buildings, Library of Birmingham, mobile offer, Library services at home offer and Prison Library.	<p>No further progress as does not achieve savings. Alternative methods of generating funds to address the funding gap, have not been able to be secured within the given budgetary timelines. Statutory library services must legally be funded by local authorities. Enhancements can be supported by external funders such as philanthropic donors, arts/heritage funding bodies, central government initiatives, partner contributions. Each of these options are dependent of the core local authority funding being securely in place. They are usually focused on specific enhancements and service areas. Timelines for competitive funding exceed the savings timeframe that BCC is required to meet. All these options can be included in the future library strategy.</p> <p>Income generation – Options for commercial income are limited. They would require upfront investment. Timelines for development of further commercial activities would not realise net income within the required savings timeframe.</p>
2	Keep Library of Birmingham and reduce Community Libraries to 6 but invest in co-located larger spaces and operations including expanding the digital offer and a mobile service whilst also retaining Library services at home and the Prison Library.	<p>No further progress as an option does not meet statutory requirements. Statutory library services must be both comprehensive and efficient. Six static library buildings for a city the size of Birmingham with 1.2 million across 100 square miles are highly unlikely to meet the statutory requirement to deliver a comprehensive library service.</p>

Compliance to statutory duty

We believe that option 4 would be most compliant with our statutory duty. We have utilised the Libraries shaping the future: good practice toolkit - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) to ensure we provide a service that is accessible to residents while recognising the constraints of council resources

In fulfilling its duty under the preceding subsection, a library authority shall in particular have regard to the desirability:	How does our proposal link into these factors
<p>(a) of securing, by the keeping of adequate stocks, by arrangements with other library authorities, and by any other appropriate means, that facilities are available for the borrowing of, or reference to, books and other printed matter, and pictures, gramophone records, films and other materials, sufficient in number, range and quality to meet the general requirements and any special requirements both of adults and children;</p>	<p>Option 4 gives the widest spread possible for people to borrow books by (a) providing adequate space to store a comprehensive range of materials and (b) providing all residents with convenient geographic access to a local library. Maintaining a wide number of physical delivery points optimises people’s ability to join the library, to browse materials, and to collect books they have requested online or in person.</p>
<p>(b) of encouraging both adults and children to make full use of the library service, and of providing advice as to its use and of making available such bibliographical and other information as may be required by persons using it; and</p>	<p>Engagement and partnership resources – retaining connections with neighbourhoods and communities – optimising the potential to work in partnerships such as local schools to deliver tailored and place-related services that meet the needs of specific residents in particular locations.</p>
<p>(c) of securing, in relation to any matter concerning the functions both of the library authority as such and any other authority whose functions are exercisable within the library area, that there is full co-operation between the persons engaged in carrying out those functions</p>	<p>Legal contracts and governance arrangements with third parties regarding the delivery of statutory library services will be used to secure long-term delivery of library services at partner and third party locations’.</p>

High-level Equality Summary -Partner-led Libraries

Library/Ward	High level Equality Impact (based on 2023 ward profile data)	Library Provision All locations with have a mobile library stop included	Targeted Activities Working with partners, including community and voluntary organisations, provide outreach activities in the Mobile Library provision and/or VCS venues that focus on the following:
Bartley Green	<p>The ward has an older age profile than the city at 16.3% above 65 (city average 13.1%) Has a lower BAME population than the city average A higher percentage (22.6 %) of disabled and long-term Health conditions (average 17.3%) High percentage of child poverty (33.1%) Deprivation decile 2 (where 1 is 10% most deprived nationally)</p>	<p>Proposed mobile Library stop</p> <p>Closest Library building P/T library is Weoley Castle 1.6 miles by car (5 min) or walking 1.4 miles (30 mins). F/T library is Northfield Library 2.3 miles by car (8 min) or walking 2.1 miles (48 min)</p>	<p>Homes and Money Advice Older people activities Children's activities (through outreach Library story time Family Hubs) Health & Wellbeing activities Disabled activities</p>
Bloomsbury (Nechells)	<p>The ward has a significantly larger share of young adults (aged 18-24) and a large concentration of student accommodation Higher BAME population than the city average. Highest ethnicity at 36.4% are Black, African, Caribbean, Black British. Higher percentage 6.2% where main language is not English and cannot speak English or speak English will (average 5% in the City) Employment rates are well below the city average and economically inactive residents account for over half of working-age residents A very high percentage of child poverty (38.3%) One of the most deprived wards- Deprivation decile 1 (where 1 is 10% most deprived nationally)</p>	<p>Proposed mobile Library stop</p> <p>Closest Library building P/T library is Birchfield Library, 2.2 miles by car (10 min) or walking 1.9 miles (44 mins). F/T library is Library of Birmingham, 2.9 miles by car (10 mins) or walking 1.9 miles (45 mins)</p>	<p>Homes and Money Older people activities Children's activities (through outreach Library story time Family Hubs) Employment and skills</p>
Boldmere (Sutton Vesey)	<p>The ward has an older age profile at 22.4% above 65 than the city average (13.1%) A lower BAME population than the city Deprivation decile 7 (one of the least deprived wards in the city)</p>	<p>Proposed mobile Library stop</p> <p>Closest Library building F/T library is Erdington Library, 2 miles by car (7 min) or walking 1.7 miles (38 min)</p>	<p>Older people's social activities Health and wellbeing activities</p>
Frankley (Frankley Great Park)	<p>The ward has a slightly older age profile (14.7% 65+) than the city (13.1%) A lower BAME population than the city average A higher percentage (23.5%) of disabled and long-term Health conditions (average 17.3%) Unemployment proportions are similar to Birmingham's average Frankley has high percentage of child poverty (36.2%) One of the most deprived wards- deprivation decile 1 (, where 1 is 10% most deprived nationally)</p>	<p>Proposed mobile Library stop</p> <p>Closest Library building F/T library is Northfield Library 2.9 miles by car (11 min) or walking 2.7 miles (59 min)</p>	<p>Homes and Money Older people social activities Children's activities (through outreach Library story time Family Hubs) Health & Wellbeing activities Employment and skills</p>
Glebe Farm (Glebe Farm and Tile Cross)	<p>The ward has a slightly younger age profile than the city at 32.6% under 18 (city average 28.5%) A slightly lower BAME population than the city average One of the most deprived wards- deprivation decile 1 (, where 1 is 10% most deprived nationally) Unemployment proportions are above the average at 9.6% (City average 8.7%) A very high percentage of child poverty (35.8%)</p>	<p>Proposed mobile Library stop</p> <p>Closest Library building: P/T library is Shard End Library 1.9 miles by car (5 min) or walking 1.2 miles (26 min). F/T library is Ward End Library, 2.2 miles by car (8 min) or walking 2.1 miles (47 min)</p>	<p>Homes and Money Older people activities Children's activities (through outreach Library story time Family Hubs) Health & Wellbeing activities Employment and skills advice</p>
Sutton Coldfield (Sutton Trinity)	<p>The ward has an older age profile than the city at 21.9% (city average 13.1%) A lower BAME population then the city average Deprivation Decile 6 (one of the least deprived wards in the city)</p>	<p>Proposed mobile Library stop</p> <p>Closest Library building: F/T library is Mere Green Library, 1.8 miles by car (8 min) or walking 1.8 miles (43 min)</p>	<p>Older people social activities Health and wellbeing activities</p>
Walmley (Sutton Walmley and Minworth)	<p>The ward has an older profile than the City at 24.3% (city average 13.1%) A lower BAME population than the city average Deprivation Decile 7 (one of the least deprived wards in the city)</p>	<p>Proposed mobile Library stop</p> <p>Closest Library building: F/T library would be Erdington Library 2.2 miles by car (8 min) or by walking (42mins)</p>	<p>Older people, social activities Health and wellbeing activities</p>