



Libraries NI Consultation Response Questionnaire

Meeting the Demands for a Modern Public Library Service within Northern Ireland

You may be aware that the Libraries NI is conducting a strategic review of the Library Service. The proposals for Phase 1 are outlined in the document - : *Meeting the Demands of A Modern Public Library Service within Northern Ireland* which can be obtained at www.librariesni.org.uk (under 'Latest News').

Greater Belfast has been prioritised as stage 1 of the review because of the large number of libraries within close proximity of each other and the particularly poor physical condition of some of these libraries. In other parts of Northern Ireland many of these issues have already been addressed by work previously undertaken by Education and Library Boards. We also acknowledge that there are different issues that impact on access to services in rural communities.

Our overall aim, as a result of this review is to improve services by creating a network of sustainable libraries with enhanced stock and other resources as well as longer opening hours and better facilities. It is important at the outset that we let you know about the implications for our staff as part of this change. A strong positive in this consultation is that all staff jobs are protected even where our proposals suggest the necessary closure of a number of locations.

We are keen to hear your views on these proposals and should be grateful if you would complete and return this document in the box provided, in your local library.

This consultation is important to everyone in Northern Ireland as the outcome will help to shape thinking on library provision not only in Greater Belfast but across the region.

Irene Knox Chief Executive

The consultation documentation may be made available in alternative formats by request by telephoning Mrs Anne Todd on 028 2566 4100.

Consultation Response Questionnaire

Responses should be sent to:

Anne Connolly
Director of Planning & Performance
Libraries NI
25-31 Demesne Avenue
Ballymena, BT43 7BG

Responses received after **5 April 2010** cannot be considered.

If you are responding *on behalf of an organisation* please provide your details below and then proceed to Section 2:

Your Name &
Organisation:

Contact Address:

Telephone
Fax
Email

Section 1: If you are responding as an individual please complete

Libraries NI is committed to our responsibilities under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. These detailed questions will help us to assess potential impacts on particular groups within society identified by the legislation. Your responses to this questionnaire will be treated confidentially and held in accordance with current legislation.

ABOUT YOU (please tick the appropriate box)

Are you: 1. A library member Yes No ?

If yes, what is your membership number _____

(This number is located under the barcode on your membership card)

Are you:

2. Male Female ?

Are you:

3. A junior member (aged 12 & under) A young adult (aged 13 -16)
An adult A senior citizen (aged 60+) ?

4. How often do you visit a library?

More than once a week Once a week Fortnightly
Once every 3/4 weeks Less frequently Never

5a. Where is your nearest library? _____

5b. Which library do you use most often? _____

6. How do you travel to the library ?

Walk Car Bus Train Taxi Bicycle

Other _____

7. Do you have access to the Internet:

7a. At home? Yes No

7b. At work? Yes No

8. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out under the Disability Discrimination Act?

Yes No .

9. Are you married/ in a civil partnership ?

Yes

No

10 Do you have personal responsibility for the care of: ?
(Please tick)

A child

Children

A dependent older person

None of the above

11 To which of these ethnic groups do you consider that you belong?
(Please tick the option that is most appropriate for you)

White

Chinese

Irish Traveller

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Black Caribbean

Black African

Black Other

Any Other ethnic group please write in: _____

12. Have you read *Meeting the Demands of A Modern Public Library Service within Northern Ireland* which can be obtained at www.librariesni.org.uk or a summary of it?

Yes No

Section 2

PROPOSAL 1

Libraries NI is of the view that the recommendations, outlined in the Strategic Review, if implemented, will lead to an improved service for people in Northern Ireland through:

- Modernised and upgraded buildings
- A move towards opening hours for libraries and provision providing extended access during evenings and at weekends, to reflect modern lifestyle needs
- More staff time available for individual customer support
- Improved stock
- Improved facilities to support lifelong learning and access to information
- Greater access to a range of activities and events to support culture and heritage

Do you agree with Proposal 1?

Yes No

Comments

PROPOSAL 2

Libraries NI has a vision of providing a network of libraries throughout Northern Ireland with improved resources and facilities as follows:

Libraries which will

- *open a minimum of 30 hours per week 10 of which will be outside normal business hours and offering:*
 - *Dedicated meetings room space*
 - *Flexibility for community space*
 - *Computers configured in a way which can be used as a learning space*
 - *One-to-one support*
 - *Regular learning activities*
 - *Zoning e.g. teenage, quiet study space*

Larger libraries which will:

- *open a minimum of 50 hours per week of which 15 will be outside normal business hours and offering:*
 - *The same as above **PLUS***
 - *Specialist collections including local studies materials in a range of formats*
 - *Specialist ICT facilities*
 - *Refreshments*
 - *Meetings Rooms*
 - *Dedicated Exhibition Space*

The proposal, if implemented would include a programme of investment over the next three years to modernise and upgrade a number of libraries.

Do you agree with Proposal 2?

Yes No

Comments

PROPOSAL 3

In order to implement Proposals 1 and 2, it is necessary to carry out a number of major developments across the NI Libraries' Estate as well as close a number of libraries in Greater Belfast which are unable to meet the vision of delivering improved services for people in Northern Ireland.

This proposal addresses the over-provision in the area and at the same time allows planning to take place for key developments to improve provision.

As a result of these proposals there will be no job losses – staff will be redeployed within the service.

Year	Developments	Potential closures
Year 1	<p>Belfast Central – this library is being developed as part of a separate project.</p> <p>Falls Road Library Shankill Road Library</p>	<p>Andersonstown Ballyhackamore Ballymacarrett Belvoir Branial Cloughfern Dunmurry Gilnahirk Ligoniel Oldpark Sandy Row Tullycarnet Whitewell Woodstock.</p>
Year 2	<p>Cregagh Ormeau Newtownbreda</p> <p>Cluster development Suffolk and Colin Glen</p>	
Year 3	<p>Chichester Ardoyne Lisburn Road</p>	

Do you accept that to provide the future library service outlined in proposals 1 and 2 and that the suggested course of action is reasonable?

Yes No

If your answer to this question is 'No', please outline your ***preferred course of action*** and your suggestion for taking this forward?

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Equality

1. Can you identify any evidence or information which Libraries NI should consider in assessing the equality impact of these proposals?

Yes No

Comments

2. Can you identify any potential adverse impacts, with supporting evidence, which might occur as a result of these proposals being implemented?

Yes No

Comments

3. Can you suggest any measures to eliminate or minimise any potential adverse impact?

Yes No

Comments

4. Do the proposals afford an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

Yes No

Comments

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.