

| Theme                 | Evening Online Questions  | Answers  |
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| Finance and budgeting | Has any work been done on calculating the amount of income libraries bring in to the area / city? And has there been any calculation about the equivalent financial impact of closing libraries? If yes, what were the results and where can we see them? If no, could this work be done? | The finances of each library is understood including income (broken down by each library).   |
|                       | How can a consultation on a statutory service have no option to NOT have such drastic cuts?   | The Council in setting the budget is not finally fixing where the proposed savings will come from, although provisional plans will identify likely sources of savings in each Directorate. If it is decided to not proceed with a particular savings proposal, then the Directorate concerned will identify suitable alternatives. There will be sufficient flexibility for the location of savings to change in the final decision. |
|                       | Libraries are very good value for money. Won't the £2 million saving just result in greater costs elsewhere in future?  | The proposed model will still have widespread city provision for all library services.   |
|                       | Is there any way to challenge the need for the 50% budget cuts?   | This can be raised via your Councillor and by responding to the consultation with alternative proposals.   |
|                       | What income is predicted through sale of property...would it be ringfenced?   | The capital raised through sale of buildings is not included in this programme.  |
|                       | I believe that no library building in Northfield constituency is flagged as suitable to be a library. Does closing a load allow for whatever % remains of the £10m-ish maintenance requirement you'll need to do?   | No decisions have been made about the suitability of libraries in Northfield.  |
|                       | And if they become volunteer run libraries, does that mean you can invest in the building maintenance? E.g. condition of Northfield Library's windows and failed boiler   | All options will be considered regarding the buildings that are maintained   |

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|  | 25 year lease? Where will the funding come from?  | This would form part of the Community Asset Process. If you would like further detail please contact <a href="mailto:nick.rhodes@birmingham.gov.uk">nick.rhodes@birmingham.gov.uk</a>   |
|  | So if we transferred our library to the community, we'd need to fund it through community donations or work out how to generate revenue costs? Do the buildings get fixed up before they are leased, like a snag list when you're buying a house? | This would form part of the Community Asset Process. If you would like further detail please contact <a href="mailto:nick.rhodes@birmingham.gov.uk">nick.rhodes@birmingham.gov.uk</a>   |
|  | Are any of the options based on the possibility of more funding becoming available?   | The recommended option will meet the new budget target  |
|  | Why the budget saving?  | Community libraries has had a substantial savings target for 2 years. The current financial pressures increased the target for 25/26. The budget for the Council for 24/25 was set by the elected members at full Council. Further information about this decision can be found at ( <a href="http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256">www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256</a> )         |
|  | a lot of this financial crisis was due to budgeting confusion how sure are we that we even need to cut the budget THAT much? Where did this number come from?   | Community libraries has had a substantial savings target for 2 years. The current financial pressures increased the target for 25/26. The budget for the Council for 24/25 was set by the elected members at full Council. Further information about this decision can be found at ( <a href="http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256">www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256</a> )         |
|  | If there is a change of government may there be a pause or rethink about budget cuts in general?  | The budget for the Council for 24/25 was set by the elected members at full Council. Further information about this decision can be found at ( <a href="http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256">www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256</a> ). The budget for 25/26 has not yet been set by the Council. It is not known how a change in Government may affect the local government sector. |

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|          | Do we have a clearer idea of the state of bcc finances now please  | Community libraries has had a substantial savings target for 2 years. The current financial pressures increased the target for 25/26. The budget for the Council for 24/25 was set by the elected members at full Council. Further information about this decision can be found at ( <a href="http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256">www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256</a> ) |
|          | Could we raise funds by asking the community to donate money to community libraries?   | We will add this to our feedback and suggestions  |
|          | Who sets the budget and do they have a real handle on what the costs are to maintain each library?   | Service owners are responsible for the detail of their area. The budget for the Council for 24/25 was set by the elected members at full Council. Further information about this decision can be found at ( <a href="http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256">www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1430/budget_proposals_20245_and_20256</a> )  |
|          | Libraries are very good value and are protective of more costly problems, won't making these cuts cost us more in the long run and get us into even more financial difficulty?                                     | The proposed model will still have widespread city provision for all library services.  |
|          | Surely losing them will cost us more?  | The proposed model will still have widespread city provision for all library services.  |
| Location | I think making libraries accessible to those who don't have their own transport is important - will travel time be taken into account? Is that because the libraries depending on the location and where they are? | Yes travel time will be factored into alternative Library provision options   |
|          | For whatever this community hub thing is it mentioned 25 locations? What are those locations, just the current libraries?  | We are yet to know where these locations will be. There maybe a mixture of the current Library building or depending on the financial repair of the building could be in alternative buildings such as community colocations  |

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|                    | I mean, people who would, like, maybe what's likely best is taking a bus, and if they're not there on that day for the for the survey, you know or like, does that mean that there is not being captured or represented? | People can share their comments at each of the Libraries or contact the Libraries Public Consultation mailbox:<br><LibrariesPublicConsultation@birmingham.gov.uk>  |
| Staff/Volunteering | Would community voluntary groups receive training from library staff to help run the hubs? I'm concerned at losing skilled librarians.   | Training will be provided - no previous experience necessary   |
|                    | What staffing is available on this option?   | A training needs analysis to determine what training is required will be conducted   |
| Maintenance        | Is the historic maintenance budget available?  | There will be an opportunity to request capital funding for maintenance  |
|                    | Have you prioritised closures in terms of repairs. Which libraries need the least repairs?   | No cost of repair does not prioritise closures   |
|                    | Who funds the building maintenance?  | The budget for this is with Corporate Landlord   |
| Community Hubs     | Unclear what a 'Community library hub' actually is. How will they be staffed? How much physical space will be devoted to the actual library?   | Community 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 will be open on a full time and part time. Our ambition is to create inclusive environments, both in-person and online, where residents can access support, and be connected to their communities. basis. |
|                    | How is the Council going to prioritise where it feels there's a need in the community?   | A scorecard is in the process of being developed that will enable a consistent and balanced approach to the outcome of each library together with the consultation feedback.   |

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|         | How would a community hub be different to a library? Sorry if this sounds silly, but would additional services be offered?                  | Community 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 will be open on a full time and part time. Our ambition is to create inclusive environments, both in-person and online, where residents can access support, and be connected to their communities. |
|         | What sort of services would be in a community hub? Are these services already exist in communities or new services not currently available? | Each hub would take into consideration the community needs and ensure they were met.  |
|         | Could we raise funds by asking the community to donate money to community libraries?  | All options and opportunities are welcomed  |
|         | Would community-run libraries be considered part of the authority's statutory library service?  | Yes they will be the statutory service.   |
|         | Has BCC conducted any research into community-run libraries?  | Yes, we have researched and spoken to other local authorities who deliver Community run Libraries.  |
| General | Should this consultation be continuing during an election period ?  | are still able to continue during an election period.   |
|         | The consultation mentions an "enhanced digital offer". How is this different from the digital library services we already have?             | There will be digital access points and a "virtual" information point in each hub.  |
|         | What is VCS?  | Voluntary and Community Sector  |
|         | How will the mobile library service be enhanced? It will need a wider range of books to attract a wide audience.                            | It will be enhanced by additional Vehicle which will enable more stops and wider coverage across the City.  |

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|  | Would the mobile library van have computers accessible to users?   | This is something that could be looked into and offered  |
|  | Can you tell us which libraries are likely to close?   | No, decisions on closure will only take place once the consultation have closed and feedback analysed and will be made by the Council's cabinet.                             |
|  | How will the decisions be made once the consultation closes?   | A scorecard is in the process of being developed that will enable a consistent and balanced approach to the outcome of each library together with the consultation feedback. |
|  | Have you up to date information on library usage?  | Yes  |
|  | Who has devised this consultation process. Is it yourselves or outside consultants?  | The consultation has been devised by officers with advice from Legal, DCMS and best practise from other local authorities.   |
|  | Where are the updated Q and As ? Can't see them on the website   | <a href="https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/adults-communities/lc24">https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/adults-communities/lc24</a>                                      |
|  | is that the footfall saying how many people attended a library?  | Yes  |
|  | So I was wondering, is there going to be a live session like this one where the options are kind of explained because?   | There will be further in person consultations taking place at each Library.  |
|  | In the Council of determining which library they may potentially close, as well as the footfall, because then that would mean that all green library is probably likely to close. Do you see where I'm getting that? | A scorecard is in the process of being developed that will enable a consistent and balanced approach to the outcome of each library together with the consultation feedback. |
|  | I was wondering how are you going to analyse the survey data?  | All feedback from the consultation will be analysed and themes, trends key information will be used to inform the final proposal within the Cabinet report.                  |

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|  | I imagine you can't go through 3000 surveys or read them all. I don't know how is it being analysed by looking for keywords and yeah, how is that report going to be written and the consultation team, are they all BCC employees or is there a third party or consultant? | All feedback from the consultation will be analysed and themes, trends key information will be used to inform the final proposal within the Cabinet report. |
|  | Involved and then how, when there are these meetings and libraries, individual libraries in person, when are they going to happen?  | Details of the face-to-face session have been shared on the Be Heard Platform and BCC Consultation Webpage  |
|  | What format are they going to take and is that going to be a repeat of this kind of consultation?   | Face to face session will take place in each library and will follow a drop in method where no booking is required  |
|  | Or is it going to be meetings about specific options being proposed to those libraries?   | It will be based on the overall options for the Library   |
|  | But the membership reserve category, what is that?  | Number of issues + returns of items   |
|  | When will the face to face sessions for each community library take place?  | Details of the face to face session have been shared on the Be Heard Platform and BCC Consultation Webpage  |
|  | If there is a change of government may there be a pause or rethink about budget cuts in general?  | No pause or rethink is planned.   |
|  | One of my concerns is wondering how certain libraries will be chosen, in particular with option 4 I saw. I think I saw on the screen like the be at least 25. Is that accurate?   | A scorecard is in the process of being developed that will enable a consistent and balanced approach to the outcome of each library.                        |
|  | When will details of the second stage of the consultation be announced?   | Details of the final stage of consultation have been shared on the Be Heard Platform and BCC Consultation Webpage   |
|  | When are you looking to implement changes?  | 2025  |

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|  | How has BCC got to 25?                | 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. |
|  | Where will the feedback be published? | Birmingham City Council Website and Be Heard Platform   |