

Modern Libraries Programme

Options for Bath - Consultation approach

Overview

We know that local people feel passionately about the location of the Library and One Stop Shop in Bath. The Council does not have a preference which location is chosen as both have the capacity to deliver a full combined Library and One Stop Shop service

The engagement with local people is in two parts.

- The first part is a survey on the future location to determine, from the two viable options of Podium or Lewis House (Manvers street), which is the public's preferred choice. The survey and supporting material is attached.
- Secondly, once the choice and final decision is made following the outcome of the consultation, to have discussions with community representatives to help shape the design to deliver a combined and modernised One Stop Shop and Library service - all under one roof.

Our aim

Our aim from the consultation is for as many people as possible to have the opportunity to take part in a survey on the future location of the combined service in the City.

We want as wide a cross section of the community as possible to read all of the supporting materials, including the comparison of both options. This is an opportunity for everybody to get involved - from current Library and One Stop Shop users to non-users and potential users, adults to younger people, from young mums to grandparents, from those living and working in the inner city to those living across the whole of North East Somerset. If you feel that you want to have a say in the location of the central Bath library and One Stop Shop we want to hear from you.

The outcome

We would like there to be a fair, balanced and informed debate, so that local people can make a choice. If local people are interested in discussions around the design of the layout later in the year – this is the opportunity to put themselves forward.

How will this be achieved?

The survey on the potential future location of the combined service in Bath will be launched on July 20th (subject to agreement from Cabinet on the 19th) and run for a total of eight weeks until closing on September 15th.

Copies of the survey together with fair and balanced supporting materials will be available:

- On line on the Council's website

- In paper and available to pick up at any one stop shop or Library across the whole of Bath & North East Somerset area.
- Printed in a copy of the Chronicle on Thursday 27th July 2017 (or potentially 20th July).

Completed paper copies including completed surveys from the Chronicle can be dropped back to any library or One Stop Shop or alternatively posted directly to us at Bath's Library Location Survey, 19-23 the Podium, Bath, BA1 5AN.

To encourage as many people to take part in the survey and to read all of the materials to make an informed choice we will also be:

- Asking all schools to write to all parents signposting families to the website and highlighting the availability of paper copies
- Promoting it on the Council website, in press statements and on social media
- Asking community groups to highlight the survey to their members
- Meeting with specialist equality groups and asking for their help in encouraging their members to take part
- Engaging with hard to reach groups and current non-users of the services
- Putting posters up promoting the consultation and display boards in key venues
- Asking all of our partner organisations to help in any way that they can

Being fair and balanced

All of the materials put out by the Council will be fair and balanced and will treat both viable options equally on the website, in the press, on social media, email and in meetings.