

Meeting	Nottingham City Council Libraries Transformation Proposals Public Consultation Event
Date & time	Tuesday 1 st March 2022, 6pm – 7.30pm
Venue	Online via Teams
Attendance	39
Speakers	Cllr David Mellen, Leader of the Council, NCC (DM) Nigel Hawkins, Head of Culture and Libraries, NCC (NH) Terranum Abbas, Library Services Manager, NCC (TA)
Host	Jon Rea, Consultation and Engagement Manager, NCC (JR)

This was the first public consultation session on the transformation proposals for Nottingham City Library services.

This was an online Teams Live Event open to the public. The event was advertised via Nottingham City Council website Engage Hub, The Next Chapter pages on the Libraries website and via social media channels. The event was also advertised in all city council libraries. Attendees pre-registered for the event via Event Brite. A link to the meeting was sent out in advance to all 80 people who had registered.

Purpose of the meeting

To gather the public's views on the transformation proposals for the future of library services in Nottingham.

No decisions have been made for the future of the library service. All the questions raised at the meeting will form part of the consultation report.

Agenda

1. Welcome and housekeeping (JR)
2. Presentation (DM, NH, TA)
A presentation was delivered by the panel on the transformation proposals
3. Q&A (All)
Participants were asked to submit any questions via the Q&A function. Questions were grouped by a mediator to avoid any repetition so that as many questions/themes could be covered by the panel
4. Submit your views
 - a. Participants were encouraged to submit their views at: <https://www.nottinghamcitylibraries.co.uk/the-next-chapter/>
 - b. and ask any questions outside of the session via: engage@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Presentation

A presentation was given to the audience and covered the following areas:

- Introduction and background to the proposals (DM)
- New library developments underway (DM)
- Drivers for change (NH)
- Library Needs Assessment - Phase 1 review and recap (NH)

- Changes being proposed (TA)

Question and Answer

- 46 questions were asked by the audience via the Q&A function (repeated questions not included)
- 63 comments were posted via the Q&A function (repeated comments not included)
- The panel responded to 33 questions posed by the host, some questions were grouped together by theme to avoid repetition e.g Central Library, Access, Funding
- Comments were noted but not responded to
- A record of all questions and comments is included at the end of this report
- Words in [square brackets] have been added to the transcript for context

Questions:

Q1: What is the basis for the decision to close libraries in the areas identified? Surely these are areas where there is a greater need to promote library usage and support educational achievement.

A:(Cllr David Mellen) When you decide that you have to reduce the number of libraries to make a saving, working out which ones should be put forward for proposed closure is a difficult decision. We have used a combination of measures, [including] the number of people who are using the libraries, the number of books that are taken out, the state of the building and the need for improvements, the costs of each visit, the efficiencies of the building. Clearly the newer libraries are easier to maintain and to heat and light, particularly if they're in a joint building with other services, than the libraries that are older. So our proposals are based on these kinds of factors and considerations.

Some of the libraries are in areas where there are [higher] levels of deprivation and that's the case for quite a few communities across Nottingham. We've also looked at the location of the next nearest library. For example, Basford Library is within public transport links and, for some people, walking distance of Bulwell Riverside Library. Aspley Library has another library, Strelley Road Library, in the Aspley ward. [This may] be a bit more difficult for Radford and Lenton. For some people in the Radford area, the Mary Potter Centre [Hyson Green Library] is within reasonable access. We've used a number of different measures in order to come up with these proposals. But as Nigel has said, no decision has been made as yet.

Q2: What are the metrics that have been used for assessing library usage for the libraries considered for closure? - *Why have book issues been used rather than a more holistic data set that would include computer usage and how are footfall figures obtained?*

A: (Terranum Abbas) We have used computer use [statistics] as well not just [book] issues. We've used a range of other factors, and that does include the actual take up of the PCs [and] active users of the library. And the second part of the question was how are the figures regarding lower footfall obtained and over what sort of period? We do visit counts in libraries every few months. We do a visitor count where we count everyone

who visits the library during a specific period, and numbers of visits are estimated based on this.

Q3: Libraries have been operating on part time hours for years with casual staff or part time staff, underfunding obviously has had an impact. Was that taken into account in the closure proposals with how the library services have functioned over the last few years?

A:(Cllr David Mellen) Chronic underfunding is a good phrase because that's the experience of the city council over the last 12 years. We've lost £100 million a year in our budgets [from Central Government] and so every part of our services have had some reductions. There has been less funding going to libraries but it hasn't been particularly targeted at some libraries as opposed to others. That's the general state across the city, libraries being open for part time is not a new thing, that's something that's happened across the city, the only library that was open all the time was the Central Library. Library hours are based around when the usage is there. There are permanent staff and some staff who work on casual contracts to make sure that there is flexibility.

(Nigel Hawkins) What we've tried to do is always make sure [that] our library opening hours are aligned to locations where there's maximum use and that we could utilize them [the hours] to ensure there's a range of days and times when people can access [libraries]. We have tried to maintain late openings as well as a range of different days [where libraries are open so, if Radford-Lenton Library is closed] we make sure that the Hyson Green Library [is open]. But following on, yes, there has been reductions that we've had to deal with but part of that is being very opportune in terms of the approach that we've taken. By working with joint service centres and others where we've been able to have longer hours as part of a wider campus delivery, which is actually helped increase access across the city for our libraries. And, whilst we've included and work with volunteers as well as casuals as required, we've tried to maintain a professional team to help guide and develop people. I think we've tried to be quite flexible in terms of maintaining as much access as we can even though there have been reductions we've had to deal with.

Q4: Why did you close the Central Library before the new one at Broadmarsh has been completed and paid for? This does not make sense. Libraries are community led resource where trust and respect his built-in. Shutting prior to the opening of the new Central Library has left the people feeling abandoned. [Why has the new library been built] in part of the city which is underused?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) In an ideal world, we would close one library in the centre of the city and open the next one, a new one simultaneously. That would require us to borrow money to be able to do that because the sale of [the old building] Angel Row is going to contribute towards the cost of fitting out the new library on Collins Street. Because of the particular financial constraints from government at the moment [for the City Council], we're not able to borrow more money and so that was not possible [to close the old central library and open the new one at the same time].

In terms of where it is based, the building was started to be built, and almost finished, when the Broadmarsh Centre was operating, before into the operators went in to administration. At that point, we already made a start to building the new library space.

I wouldn't accept that it's a space that is in part of the city which is underused. Clearly it's not as busy [currently] as Angel Row was, but the college has opened since with lots of students around, Carrington Street units have been completely modernized and are full of people. We've got another place of work on Station Street being constructed and we've got the HMRC building which will have up to 4000 staff in and of course people going back and forth to the station. It's not the Market Square, but it is a place which we hope in the future, particularly with the exciting plans for Broadmarsh, [will be a] really exciting part of the city.

I think your points about people feeling abandoned are very valid. It is not something we would want to do and we know that for some citizens of our city, our libraries are places that are like a second home. It is a place where they feel people know them, it's a place where they can get support as well as using computers and borrowing books so we wouldn't undervalue that. We know that most of our library uses are in the city centre Library and we want to open our new central library.

Q5: Can you specify the changes [proposed] for Radford and Lenton with regard to the demographic of that area and the consideration of the closure proposals alongside other potential closures in the area [John Carrol Leisure Centre]. Also, Bulwell Library and Sherwood Library have been suggested as alternatives to Basford Library but Sherwood Library is also closed.

A: (Nigel Hawkins) We're very aware that [Radford Lenton] used to be a strong neighbourhood, but the neighbourhood also has a huge number of students and [student] letting's so we have seen quite a change in terms of the family orientation people in and around there. What we're seeing is-very much shaped by the university and the seasonality of the university there and what we want to make sure is [that] we're trying to provide key things for our residents living there throughout the year. Libraries sometimes are fixed point, a building, but actually the area around them changes and sometimes we need to be responsive to that.

John Carroll Leisure Centre has now closed as part of budget savings and we have to look very carefully at the impact of any closures that take place from other services in one particular area. So I think we're mindful of that. We want to note the concerns that people raise for from that point of view but, as I say, there is a very accessible library with Mary Potter Centre.

With Basford Library, and the new-Sherwood Library coming back online [into use], we know there is quite a lot of shared [use], people from Sherwood go to Basford and vice versa. So it is another option and alternative for those people. Again we recognise when we look at the stats and figures, we see a lot of people are registered at one library but also use another and I think that sometimes depends on their lifestyle so I think we need to be aware of that. People sometimes are quite mobile in terms of the places that they visit that best suits their needs.

(Cllr David Mellen) If we do make a decision to close a [library] then clearly the timing of it is important. With Sherwood Library being built during this year, then maybe there's some way that the timing of that could be taken into account to bear in mind that point made.

For the Radford community, if the library closes, it's suffering a double loss there, I absolutely accept that. It's been a hard decision to look at what other city council facilities are in that area and also the nature of the population there. We will be interested as part of this consultation to hear from people who might want to take on these buildings in any way, whether there could be a sustaining of our facility there. We tried that with the John Carroll Leisure Centre, it wasn't possible unfortunately, even though we tried hard with a number of partners there. Clearly the library would be something that we would look at as well. There is only saving of the costs, there's no sale of buildings counted into these savings, so we would be looking at that as part of our results of these consultations.

Q6: Firstly, how do you propose to deliver the new services and partnerships as outlined in the presentation in the Basford, Aspley and Radford areas? Secondly, thinking about the transport issues related to the proposed closures, when Basford library has gone, how do people without their own transport access libraries, especially if they're disabled or have young children. How are young children going to learn about libraries?

A: (Nigel Hawkins) I think that's a very fair point and we're alive to that. I think we also need to be aware that some young people also want to engage in these resources in a different way, with lots of our online and other content. Library [services] don't just have to be just within the walls [of the library building]. We've done various activities and different types of delivery of work that engages people in learning, reading in new and different ways, an example being Story Parks. It was very successfully and engaged people both into the parks and to learn and reading with an introduction to other libraries nearby. We appreciate there will always be individual problems but equally as we change and open up other spaces, it opens up other opportunities for people to engage and work in different ways. So I think it is about trying to get the balance right.

We've got a strong public transport system that works very well and can deliver people directly from one location to the others in the city, but I appreciate that's also a different effort and a different requirement for different people.

I think we also have to be aware when we look at all the stats that a lot of people do move around. I know it is one of the issues that people say is a problem, but people do move from site to site. We see that in terms of [library] cards that are used in different locations and what we want to do is find innovative ways that we can work sometimes outside of the library to deliver activities which support bringing people back into the library. I think it's about getting that balance right overall.

Q7: How are you going to be able to provide digital services to people who can't afford their own equipment if you've closed that local branch? If they aren't able to afford the bus fare to visit one of the remaining libraries, how will you ensure that people have access wherever they are?

Whilst [the person asking the question] can see the rationale for some of these decisions, it does feel like it is geared up for the younger demographic and fears that older people who are not interested in technology may lose out.

A: (Nigel Hawkins) In terms of the digital provision available for everyone, in a lot of cases where we're loaning items [e.g. tablets] they would be available to use in libraries but we've actually taken it to some individuals as well [through various library and partnership collaborations targeted projects]. The priority is identifying people with that

need. During the pandemic, [through funded projects] we have handed devices out [to reach those who are digitally isolated]. Equally we've been looking at the loaning of tablets and that's something we're also going into where families can use their library membership to loan tablets/laptops. That's something we are looking at following the identification of this need during Covid. We recognize there's an ongoing need, as we see more and more services going online, and we have to make sure we try to help in terms of plugging that digital divide.

On the second part of the point, we're very aware that actually physical stock in is also important. We still are putting a large amount of money into physical resource however there's been a shift over a number of years. For instance, we're now spending about 78% on physical stock (books and publications) compared to 22% on online resources but, if you take that back a couple of years ago, it was 95% on physical and only 5% on online resources. Because of that demand we've had to shift around our resources to accommodate that but we very much want to try and make sure that their spaces for all and we need to develop the libraries so we can make them as adaptable as possible to encourage more people to use them.

Q8: An audience member feels the proposed closures are excluding and isolating less mobile customers, she uses the online services but she likes actual books as well. Can the panel respond in terms of how the needs of the less mobile are being factored into the transformation proposals?

A: (Nigel & Terranum) We're delivering more books through 'Click and Collect' where people can go online and choose the books that they want for collection. I think one of the things we need to do is find out what other mechanisms [opportunities] we can use with partners that might help people overcome some of the issues [and help us continue to support less mobile customers] so it's not just what we do in the libraries but how do we influence and use our resources for other providers that also could give different access opportunities. So those are really key points we need to hear so we could look at how do we develop a system that helps as many people as we can.

Q9: Why are the stats given for Aspley Library only include Aspley and not part of Basford and the Whitemoor area? Our libraries sit in overlapping areas and residents go to a number of different places locally, as well as the ones on their doorstep. Can you just talk through some of the thinking behind the statistics used to make the decision?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) We've used a library catchment statistics so, for a lot of areas we've looked at, there is overlap if you're looking at the ward but we've used a combination of [data about] that particular locality and also the library membership [data]. It's also the case that Aspley is still the only ward with two libraries, Aspley Library and Strelley Road Library are both in Aspley ward, some wards haven't got any libraries at all. So there's a balance to be made as we seek to balance a budget and, sadly, may have to look at reducing the number of libraries. However, people do move about the city and our bus routes particularly give people access to libraries which are not necessarily in the areas where they live, particularly older people who have a bus pass.

The Q&A was paused to remind everyone to respond to the survey available at:

<https://www.nottinghamcitylibraries.co.uk/the-next-chapter/>

People can also pose any questions directly to the engage@nottinghamcity.gov.uk. Further opportunities to get involved include in person engagement events on **March 29th at the Council House between 6:30pm - 8:00pm** which is open to the public. Details of that are found <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/engage-nottingham-hub>

We will also be holding some local events at branches affected by the proposals. The details of those will be available shortly on the webpages listed and promoted at local libraries and via social media.

Regarding translation of the online paper consultation, which is available in English, we do provide translation support and help for completing the survey. You can access help through the libraries themselves, both hard copies and online survey access is available and you will also find support for translation and support with completing the survey.

An easy read version for people who need that on its way, which will be available shortly in libraries and online as well.

This session is being recorded in terms of the questions and answers are being asked and that will be made available to everybody through Engage Nottingham Hub and the libraries, The Next Chapter website and can be shared with people who aren't available to watch tonight or be part of the meeting.

Q10: When will the new Central Library be open?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) I wish I could answer it easily. As I said earlier, the fact that we can't borrow money means that we have to sell properties or get money from government to enable us to continue with our capital work. I can give a guarantee that the new Central Library will open and hopefully work will start later this year, but we can't yet give an exact date when it will be open. We will do that as soon as we possibly can. There are plans to go to full council next week, in relation to the council's capital program, for the completion of the fit out of the new library. We will also, as we did last year, take opportunities to apply to government for funding to enable that to be done more quickly if we possibly can.

Q11: If the council is in the process of 'off loading' those libraries which are most expensive to maintain, and talking about the potential for community groups to take these on, do you think that's feasible with those libraries having the highest overheads?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) I wouldn't suggest that it's easy, but it's also the case that we don't want to close off avenues to the voluntary sector or community groups, or indeed other partners in the city. The former Hyson Green Library on Gregory Boulevard is now being used by a voluntary sector dance company. They pay the city council a small rental to enable us to be able to help with that building. I'm not suggesting it's easy to

take on a building that the City council might be choosing to close however, we do believe that working with our communities are really good way forwards and we will seek to do that where ever we can. Obviously this state of the building and the structure of it is as a real factor and we would want to have conversations with people who are interested.

Q12: Looking at the impact on the communities where the three libraries proposed for closure are, what work was done to understand the impact in terms of the equality impact assessment and any other work that was done leading to that proposal?

A: (Nigel Hawkins)

We've done an equality impact assessment about this consultation, that's been published in terms of the work that we've considered in relation to looking at the consultation and approach that we're undertaking. We've also carried out key mapping, which again is part of the documents [Phase 1 Report], looking at all the catchments of the residents houses, how that changes in terms of libraries proposed for closure, and the number of people that might be impacted and affected.

We've also tried to make sure wherever we can, that we've spoken to as many groups, individuals and partners to look at other sort of facilities or work related in and around that area in order that we get an understanding of the impact. If people feel there are particular factors or issues that have been missed, it would be useful if they could say that and complete the survey and send that in to us so all of that can be brought together. When we have completed this formal stage of the consultation, there will be a period of reflection and looking at all the work, and then presenting reports back for Councillors to consider when making a final decision.

Q13: Looking at Nottingham and its UNESCO City of literature status, is it likely to lose that status as a result of these closures or how does it affect that?

A: (Nigel Hawkins) We've talked directly with City of Literature. They've always been a strong advocate and supporter of the library provision they also recognise that we have some challenges. We've been trying to work with them in other outreach work and other ways that we can engage people. So we've been supporting projects that they're doing with young ambassadors, working with schools, working in other areas in order to help make sure that we are keeping people interested in literacy as well as working with other events and other activities. Closing these libraries will not affect the UNESCO City of Literature status. One of their key goals as part of the UNESCO bid was to achieve a new central library so that's also something we're very focused on and we're working with them on. It is very much working with them and trying to work in ways to make sure that we extend the idea of literacy and engagement with literacy.

Q14: Bulwell library is not in easy walking distance from Basford if it's being proposed as a potential alternative. It's a half an hour walk which isn't possible with a pushchair/small child or for those who have difficulty walking. Can you talk about some of the assessment work that was done around access to alternative libraries in your work?

A: (Nigel Hawkins) What we've tried to look at is public transport links and how space is connected in the city. As Councillor Mellen said, we're blessed with a very strong network of tram and bus routes that enable people to move around the city, which we know from library cards that our users are already doing that. We've tried to map all of that [transport and alternative libraries] to look at that impact.

With Basford Library, it's quite isolated. It's not in the middle of a housing development, Some bits of Basford are very near to Bestwood area where the Southglade library is not too far away, and we are a number of libraries with good transport links like Bulwell which is very well served with public transport.

Q15: Was it ever a consideration to open up current libraries to attract more diverse usage and thus avoiding closure of these key community buildings? What sort of thoughts and work has gone on to attract more users?

A: (Nigel) We've always done a lot of collaborative work and working with different community partners and also reached out to others with those opportunities to use this space and work with us to develop those in different ways. So we've tried to explore that [previously] and we are continuing to explore that now. If people come forward with their ideas, we very much want to look at that and follow that up. So we think there are opportunities to work in different ways and different collaborations that could make it more cost effective and efficient. We've got to find a different way or different partners that will have a good relationship with over those areas [Basford, Radford]. If other partners or people might want to work in new ways that could be a collaborative approach to using some of these spaces, then that could be useful dialogue and we would like to open that up during this consultation period.

Q16: Has this proposal been impacted by the losses caused by the collapse of Robin Hood Energy and the recent news around the housing revenue account?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) I understand the need to ask that question and the loss of money through Robin Hood Energy is regrettable. The intent in setting up an energy company was to try and address fuel poverty in our city but, like dozens of other energy companies, it couldn't survive the environment which involved the big six companies really having domination there. The housing revenue account, something that was found before Christmas, where it was found money had been unlawfully used, both are being addressed as one off things through using our reserves. So it's not an ongoing cost. The library closures are part of an ongoing reduction of our budget from government as I said earlier in this presentation of £100 million.

Every year less to spend on the people of Nottingham and at the same time, not only are we expected to use our Council tax budget, but they've added to it for adult social care. So the answer is no, I'm not saying that those two other things are not absolutely regrettable, they are things that I've apologized for as the leader of the Council they are things that have increased the attention of government on the running of the City Council on which we are greatly accountable to them but they are not the direct causes of having to make savings in our ongoing year on year revenue budget.

Q17: About the provision of books, books at home and the click and collect service - what has happened to the mobile library service and is there anything in terms of provision for people who are housebound?

A: (Nigel and Terranum)

In terms of the Home Library service, we visit people who cannot easily get to a library, and it might be people that are housebound or carers or anyone who will struggle to get to a library. We have volunteers who will go and take books out to them. In terms of the mobile library, we had this service many years ago but because of budget reductions it was closed in around 2010 or possibly even earlier.

Q18: Central Library - How would it to be the best children's library in the UK and how can it be the best children library in the UK in the context of what we're talking about tonight?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) That was a part of the manifesto of the Labour Group at the last election. Certainly we still want to have a focus on this being a really good children's facility, whether it would be the best in the UK will we will see. But we are really keen that children get the best out of libraries and that the design of the new library at Collins Street will certainly have children in mind at the forefront of the way that it's designed and the facilities that are there for children.

Q19: Do the Councillors use their own local library?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) I'm regularly in the library in Dales ward, the Dales Centre. I do surgeries there with my colleagues twice a week on a Saturday. We met there for the community litter pick and we finish and end at the library. Last week I attended a residence meeting in the library and so I use it regularly and I'm sure my colleagues do as well.

Q20: Have you considered the potential impact on children and families who may be losing both their library and their local children centre? *Proposals for children centre's were published and the public consultation for that was launched yesterday and there is a proposal there for a number of children centres to be closed and the introduction of a new citywide early years help offer which will be available to people in the affected areas where there isn't a children centre on their doorstep.*

A: (Cllr David Mellen) We had 18 children centres quite a long time ago and they were introduced by government in the early part of this century. Sadly, half of those have been passed over to schools and schools are using them, not for the reason that they were originally purposed, and we have got now proposals to close five more children centres as a result of the financial pressures I talked about earlier. We will still run the service but not all of it in children centres, but using community centres. For example, Aspley is geared to potentially lose one of its libraries and one of his children centres. There were two buildings in Aspley that are both called children centres but they're part of the same one. They still have Broxtowe children's centre which is very near to Strelley Road library so there's still will be access for people in that area which is at the top of the statistics in terms of levels of deprivation. We are still hoping to keep one more open. We're still hoping to work with schools and or child care providers to keep more children centres open. That's an ongoing consultation that has just started. It is difficult, and yes we are

certainly losing community facilities, but we are trying to balance it so that there is, in the vast majority, community resources of some kind but I'm not suggesting it's ideal in any sense or form.

Q21: Although public transport is good, it's all geared up to traveling into the city and not between areas. If you don't drive you very much stuck unless you have the time and money for multiple bus and tram journeys. The request is could the community libraries be all kept open at least until there was a functioning Central Library, has that been considered?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) Certainly that's something that we can take into account as part of this consultation about the timing. I did mention that there's a saving that we need to achieve through the library service in the next financial year and we need to work out how we can do that. The [bus & tram] routes run in and out of the city centre but also to places like Bulwell which has got a bus station and a tram line that runs very close to {the library}. Some libraries have more of a community feel and going between areas is less easy. We have still got some bus routes that go around the city and serve across our various community areas. We still have some of the link buses, although not as many as we would like to keep, which are supported by the budget of the City Council to enable that. But I think is a good point and we can take that into account in result of this consultation.

Q22: Older people do borrow books, but their main motive for visiting libraries is to be in a social place, to have a chat, to alleviate loneliness - lending out laptops won't address this. How does the Council propose to deal with the isolation that closing libraries will cause? - what's the panels view on as libraries as social places and the importance of them?

A: (Nigel and Terranum) We agree that supporting isolated people is a key role for the library service and it is something we are very keen to ensure continues. In all of our libraries we run many events for older people and others, because you don't have to be older to feel socially isolated. So that is something we will be continuing and looking to further building upon. I think we all recognise that library spaces are one of the few free spaces, in a public building sense, that all people can use and feel that they own; that is important to us. We want to ensure we continue to promote that open access and retain that as much as we can. I think what we have to do is ensure our library spaces are flexible and adaptable to enable our libraries to support these different types of needs within our communities so that libraries are a place where people can socialise and be a place where people can come sit and chat. The element of the work that we need to do is find a way and work out how we help people to access other libraries. We recognise that that is one of the things that's important.

Q23: None of the questioner's grandchildren have ever had a school library visit. There are all aged under 10 - Why aren't all city schools engaging with libraries? Parents don't always want to, or aren't able to access libraries with their children. What's the relationship with schools like at the moment?

A: (Terranum Abbas) We work closely with all schools and getting schools to come into libraries is one of our priorities. We also understand that there can be priority pressures for schools which they may need to take into account. I used to be a children's librarian

many years ago and I was in the position of delivering class visits and trying to encourage schools to visit, and remember the challenges schools faced in being able to bring classes to libraries. From our perspective, many children will only join the library through schools; a lot will be brought by their parents, but there are some who won't be brought to the library by parents and the school may be the only means of them becoming library members. We would always try to encourage schools to visit whether it's for one-off visits or regular class visits. We sometimes go out to schools and do talks and introduce the library service to schools in assemblies, and we recognise that we have to do that important outreach work to meet people in different environments, to promote the library service and to give that handhold to come into the libraries. Again, we fully recognize the [resource] pressure that schools have, and some schools are able to regularly visit but others aren't. We are looking to strengthen our partnership with schools to help give a joined up message on the importance of literacy and reading development.

Q24: Why not offer the libraries that have been proposed for closure as 'one stop shops' which could then be financed by additional support, private or partnership funded? Joint Service Centres work in other areas of the city

A: (Nigel and Terranum) We have tried to reach out to as many groups as possible to look at alternative and different ways that they can use these [library] spaces and we'll be continuing to do that through this period of the consultation. I think we sometimes need to recognize that some of the buildings have limitations because of their design and build, which sometimes doesn't make it as appropriate or possible for use as joint service centres. But we're not ruling anything out. If we can find groups/organisations that offer an alternative viable options we will look at that as part of the consultation as opposed to just saying it's going to close. We are looking at alternatives and we're happy to hear all proposed alternatives from our communities.

Q25: Are you employing consultants to help you make savings?

A: (Nigel Hawkins) I think we have been clear in terms of when we started the consultation work [in Phase 1] that we did work with a group called Activist. They didn't actually do a lion's share of the work, that was done by the library service, but we used them to help guide us in terms of their practical experience in the library sector and for looking at the consultation and engagement element, and to help analyse the data we've got. So yes, we have used some consultants to help us in terms of putting it together, but it's very much owned by the [library] service and it's led by the [library] service.

Q26: Regarding staffing levels and the proposals to have card access and no staffing at times – It feels much better to visit libraries that are staffed, where librarians are near to the doors to welcome people in and offer assistance, this isn't the case at Mary Potter. Can you reflect on that difference going forward, not just for the closure program, but more broadly for libraries about the importance of having librarians and assistants available.

A: I think it's a very good point and we recognise that Mary Potter centre is quite a large joint service centre with lots of different services and the library is positioned in the middle of that building, which is not as visible as from the front as we would like. We've just received some funding from Arts Council England and we're looking at addressing

the visibility in the front of the centre and making it a better journey going on through to the library so we can improve the welcoming feel as you come into the Mary Potter Centre. We are extremely pleased with the Dales Centre, which was a police station, and have worked in collaboration with the Police as part of the library conversion. I personally think getting a quality design and the feel of openness [spacious surrounding] is a key part of making our libraries a welcoming space, so we were pleased that we were able to make some interventions in that building so it was designed very specifically so that when people enter it felt light and airy, and very welcoming. That is a standard that we want to get for all our libraries.

I think we have got some work to do at the Mary Potter because the type of building we've inherited and moved into there but we're working on that to make sure it stays a quality standard. The style of the Dales and Strelley, our newer libraries, will be echoed in Sherwood and very much echoed with the new Central Library.

Q27: Do you ever wonder if making short term cuts in order to achieve savings targets will lead to long term losses in terms of literacy, community relationships and social inclusion?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) I think these cuts are not ones we want to make. We would rather keep these libraries open, and open more. We believe and recognise that libraries are important parts of our communities. We'd like more people to use them but we also believe that diverse use of the library building is really important. For some people coming to the library is the community relationship that they have, and social inclusion, it is part of that. I sometimes see children who may have been excluded from school and are having home tuition, or are having tuition for other reasons, maybe illness or personal choice, who are using the library as a place to be studying rather than just in their homes. We do have other things like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which is something that I sponsor, which is currently sending books to 5700 children every month in our city as a result of charity, lottery and donations. But if you have this question is asking is this [closing libraries] a good thing to do? Absolutely, it's not. The situation we have now is to make choices on how to balance our budget, and proposing to close a library a very regrettable step.

Q28: How can the people of Nottingham help the Council ensure that services are maintained. They say that they're under no illusion that these decisions are not taken very lightly, so what can the people of Nottingham do?

A: (Cllr David Mellen) I think as a Labour politician I don't believe that our term is well served by a Conservative government and ultimately that needs to change. But in the meantime, I think people don't speak up enough about the poor funding of local government. There's often a lot said about the needs of the health service, and I don't doubt that the health service has been wonderful, has always been wonderful, and particularly so in the last couple of years [dealing with Covid pressures]. But sometimes local government, under services that we provide [such as libraries] are a little bit treated like Cinderella services in that they're not really seen. Even though quite a lot of our adult social care for vulnerable people in our communities is done by the Council, many people think it's the health service. So shouting up on behalf of local government services like library services is really important, writing to your Member of Parliament, writing it to various ministers to make

that point and of course, and considering this when you come to the ballot box.

The Q&A was paused to notify:

We've tried to get through as many as possible, and we can always address your questions directly by email or through the survey and also through future engagement events. We have an event March 29th at the Council House between 6:30pm and 8:00pm o'clock in person, where people come and ask questions there too and we have some future events planned at branch libraries which will be announcing very shortly which again will be an in person opportunity to come along and share your views and the questions

Q29: What are the plans for the books and other resources that are at the libraries proposed for closure?

A: (Nigel and Terranum) What we want to look to do is try not to lose the books that people still want to use. [In terms of stock management] We generally like to redistribute our stock resources in order to ensure that they're available through our catalogue. As part of the service we regularly review our stock and where we've got stock that's maybe just sitting on the shelf not being used that we need to weed that out to make sure we reflect having what people want to read. It's an on-going process that we do all the time. Quite regularly you will see, in some of the local community libraries, book stock sales where we've got books that are no longer needed by the service, but people still may want to buy them at an affordable cost. We sell them or donate books to range of different places and organisations and we'll continue that process whenever we can to make sure we redistribute unwanted stock the best way we can for our communities.

Q30: What's the response of the panel to a school whose local library has closed and is unable to get their class onto a bus or tram for a visit to another library? The danger there is that they'll lose the good relationships with those schools and also, very sadly, with those children. What work, if any, has been done to talk to and engage with schools and think about the relationship not only with library users, but also some of those local community partners?

A: What we don't want to do is lose any community relationships where we don't need to. So from that point of view, I think it's about working collectively to find solutions of how we can fulfil that [community] need in different ways. We've got a wide range of consultation engagement going on. We've issued consultation details to all our partners, different groups and community groups and to schools, to ask about key issues or key concerns that they've got and about future expectations. So what we really need is that information fed back into us in order to help us look at any issue occurring across the proposals that we are making.

Q31: From that conversation with partners more broadly in the city, could you just give us any idea of the kind of conversations you're having about libraries within those wider city partnerships?

A: We have a number of partners in the business sector, in the universities, in health and other areas. We know that it's not just about borrowing books and using computers,

but about peoples wellbeing and a variety of groups, including health groups, are using some of our libraries for various purposes. I think we need to be creative and open minded in the way that we look to our partners to say 'can you help us with this situation'. This is not something we want to do but maybe there is somebody out there, in one of those institutions or somewhere else, that can help us with this and as part of this consultation. We will be looking, if we do decide to close these three libraries, as to what will happen in these buildings, whether there are other models that we can look to. Clearly, once the Central Library is open there will be a greater resource for people wherever they live in the city to visit a library which is bigger and has more resource. Before Angel Road closed, nearly 70% of our library usage was the Central Library, that's a big factor in this for the city.

Q32: A question about people who can't afford to buy less popular books. One thing we haven't touched on tonight is the fund for buying new books. Could you comment on the impact around the fund for book stock and how does that address that question about ensuring that there are less popular books in the book stock?

A: (Nigel Hawkins and Terranum Abbas) We try to make sure that we look at our book stock so it's got depth. We can easily track our books in terms of when they were last taken out so we have an understanding of our stock and stock usage. There's a wide range of classics that you always have to hold on to and they will always crop up in terms of what we're doing. We do a lot of work looking at the book stock, managing the books and looking at trends that take place both within our service but also nationwide in terms of lending requirements that take place. Some of that will be driven by schools and some of it will be driven by TV shows and other type of activities. There's a whole range of ways that books might come back into popularity that people might want take an interest in so we try to be very careful in the curation of the collection that we keep. We spend around £275,000 a year on new book stock resources, trying to ensure we invest in a way that looks at all the stocks and ensure we can refresh our stock going forward, some of is starting to go towards e-resources. For the last five or six years we've worked as a consortium with a wide range of other library services both in the city and the county and the East Midlands region so that we can maximize our book buying power with the suppliers in order that we get the best and lowest price for bringing stock into the libraries. It's something we're always working on to try and make sure we remain as valid and relevant as we can within resource is we've got.

It's always the balance between do you stock everything including the things that might not be borrowed and how we use the library space. We want to create community lounges, we want to have places where people can sit and enjoy the facilities, but also run events and activities. And so the balance for us is how many [books] we have in the local community libraries but we feel that it's important to have them within the service which is why we've got things like 'Click and Collect'. We want to improve the facilities within the libraries so perhaps the books that aren't quite as popular they can be obtained through click and collect rather than having them repeated in all libraries.

Q33: An important question about has been asked about engaging children and young people's voices in the consultation, as well as those of adults.

A: Through this process we are engaging with schools and education partners. We are also bringing in an easy read, child friendly version of the survey very shortly which will

be available on the Engagement Hub site and webpages for The Next Chapter. The survey has been sent to schools through our engagement channels and we will follow up with the short version and to children and youth providers in the voluntary and community sector. Our local branch libraries are already talking with their younger users and encouraging them to give their feedback and we do have consultation events planned for those branch libraries where children and young people will be welcome to attend, we want to hear their voice too.

You can also submit material through engage@nottinghamcity.gov.uk directly to us.

If you do wish to use the online survey you will also find information about The Next Chapter transformation proposals and hard copies at your local library.

We also have a Frequently Asked Questions page at <https://www.nottinghamcitylibraries.co.uk/> which you can use to help provide background information on many of the topics that we've talked about tonight.

It's been a really fruitful discussion for us, we've heard some really important strong opinions from our attendees, so thank you very much for submitting all those questions.

Thank you to the panel for your responses to those and we certainly have got lots to take away and think about. As I said at the start of this session these are proposals, decisions haven't been made yet and they will only be made when we have a good evidence from the public. We've already had over 1000 responses to the survey and through events like this and the continuation of the survey process up until the end of April 24th, we hope to gather as many voices and views as possible to shape the final decision.

So thank you very much for taking part and please encourage you to continue to stay involved throughout The Next Chapter conversation.

Thank you very much.

CLOSE

Questions asked by the audience

	Type	Theme	Content
1	question	Impact	What is the basis for the decision to close libraries in areas identified. surely these are areas where there is a greater need to promote library usage and support educational achievement.
2	question	Consultation	Can a link of the survey be included in the chat? thank you
3	question	Process	As Cllr Mellen has just said, libraries are vital for computer usage in under-resourced areas. Why then has books checked out been used as the metric for assessing usage for the libraries being consulted on closure, rather than a more holistic data set?
4	question	Process	How were figures regarding lower footfall obtained, and for what period? (I used to work for the Library Service and don't remember anyone completing one)
5	question	Central Library	Why did you close the central library before the new one (Broad Marsh) is completed and paid for? this does not make sense to libraries are a community lead resource where trust and respect is built. Shutting is prior to the opening of the new one, people will feel abandoned. Building the new one in a part of the city which is underused having no other venues to use seems pointless.
6	question	Funding	Libraries have been operating on part time hours for years (Basford has very few hours) and staffed mainly by zero hour contract staff, sorry "casual hour contract staff". Was the chronic underfunding of Libraries taken into account in foreclosures?
7	question	Impact	What about other services the local libraries provide, public health and social needs, such as framework. sure start, knit and natter groups
8	question	Access	When Basford Library has gone, how do people without their own transport access libraries? Especially if they are disabled or have young children? How are young children there going to learn about libraries?
9	question	Impact	With the closure of the John Carroll leisure centre and now the proposed closure of the library what hope and opportunities can Nottingham City Council offer the residents of this area please? This is especially the case with the regards to the "first port of call".
10	question	Partnerships	How do you propose to deliver the new services & partnerships (as outlined in the presentation) in the Basford, Aspley & Radford areas?
11	question	Technology	How are you going to be able to provide digital services to people who can not afford their own equipment if you have closed their local library. They are unlikely be able to afford the bus fare to visit one of the remaining libraries.
12	question	Technology	I can see the rationale for some of this, but it does feel like it is geared up to the younger demographic. I fear that older people, who really aren't interested in technology, but just want access to books, may lose out. Can you tell us more about the plans for the Home provision?
13	question	Central Library	Easy question: when will the new Broadmarsh library open?
14	question	Funding	With regards to the books in the libraries, can a book sale be organised to generate funds that will help with these proposals?
15	question	Other options	If you are offloading the more expensive to maintain libraries whilst also speaking about potential for community groups to take them on, do you think this is feasible with these having the highest overheads?
16	question	Process	Why has the stats given for Aspley library only included Aspley, yet Aspley library serves part of Basford and Whitemoor area.
17	question	Access	What are you doing about accessibility for less mobile.. bulwell is terrible as to far to walk from blue badge into library, and always full i would have to park on double yellows, southglade is on a slope, sherwood is shut and has been for a while, arnold is also to far to walk from carpark to library, basford is my choice but as no local schools using or footfall from no local community is under utilised. My local bestwood library was shut years ago. You are excluding and isolating less mobile customers. I do use online but i like an actual book as well as the library.
18	question	Access	I can see the rationale for some of this, but it does feel like it is geared up to the younger demographic. I fear that older people, who really aren't interested in technology, but just want access to books, may lose out. Can you tell us more about the plans for the Home provision?
19	question	Impact	Please could you describe the expected impact on the communities where these three libraries are situated.
20	question	Children	None of my grandchildren have ever had a school library visit..why not. (age 10 and under) Why are all city schools not engaging the children through schools. Parents do not always want to or are able to access with their children.
21	question	Partnerships	Has the question been asked: Is Nottingham likely to now loose its UNESCO City of Literature status as a result of these closures?

22	question	Other options	If you are offloading the more expensive to maintain libraries whilst also speaking about potential for community groups to take them on, do you think this is feasible with these having the highest overheads?
23	question	Central Library	Will the new central library be “the best children’s library in the UK” as per the sign behind Cllr Mellen? If so, how?
24	question	Use	Do the councillors use their own local library?
25	question	Funding	Can I ask how this decision has been impacted by the losses caused by the collapse of Robin Hood Energy, and the issue recently in the news about the problems with the Housing Revenue account? Are we in fact losing resources like this to make up for losses elsewhere?
26	question	Other options	Was it ever a consideration to open up current libraries to offer more diverse usage. thus avoiding closure of another key community building
27	question	Central Library	Whilst fully understanding your work and the new demands of library services, the answer to a pertinent question was dodged. Why do we no longer have a city centre library? Why was it closed before future facilities were available? What has happened to Local Studies with such an experienced and helpful staff? What about the access to inter-library loans?
28	question	Access	Will free transport be available for library use then?
29	question	Impact	Have you considered the potential impact on children & families who may be losing both their library & their Children's Centre?
30	question	Impact	In my experience, older people do borrow books, but their main motive for visiting libraries is to be in a social place, to have a chat, to alleviate loneliness. Lending out laptops will not address this. How do you propose to deal with the isolation that closing neighbourhood libraries will cause?
31	question	Funding	Is it fair that the poorest will lose out due to the mismanagement of Robin Hood Energy and the seizure of funds meant for social housing tenants. Is it fair for the disabled, elderly, vulnerable and those on benefits to foot the bill?
32	question	Access	Sorry, I was actually thinking of the provision of BOOKS to people at home, not tech. David Mellen mentioned there will be some kind of service like this from Aspley? What has happened to the Mobile Library?
33	question	Access	There has been talk this evening about library users of Basford, Radford/Lenton and Aspley using other libraries instead but although public transport in Nottingham is good it is all geared up to travelling into the city not between areas. If you don't drive you are very much stuck unless you have the time and money for multiple bus and tram journeys. Can community libraries be all kept open at least until there is a functioning central library?
34	question	Children	How would the council explain their plans to close libraries to a child who visits their local library every week?
35	question	Children	None of my grandchildren have ever had a school library visit..why not. (age 10 and under) Why are all city schools not engaging the children through schools. Parents do not always want to or are able to access with their children.
36	question	Other options	Why not offer the proposed libraries as 'one-stop-stop' centres? They could be financed by private/corporate/NGO funds
37	question	Impact	Do you ever wonder if making short-term cuts will lead to long-term losses in terms of literacy, community relationships and social inclusion?
38	question		I am a labour voter. How can the people of Nottingham help the council ensure that services are maintained? I am under no illusion that these decisions are not taken very painfully, so... what can the people of Nottingham do?
39	question		What are the plans for the books and other resources n the libraries that are set to be closed?
40	question	Savings	Are you employing consultants to help you make savings? If so how much are they being paid. A lot more than the Library staff employed on zero hour contracts I would imagine
41	question	Schools	Asking as a primary school governor, what is your answer to a school who has their local library close and is unable to get the class on the NCT bus or tram for a visit to a still open library? You will lose the good relationships with these schools and, very sadly, those children to the service
42	question	Access	What about people who can't afford to buy less popular books?
43	question	Schools	Have you contacted schools near the libraries earmarked for closure yet?
44	question	Consultation	What steps are you taking to consult with younger service users? The meeting at Mary Potter with children around the children's centres was excellent
45	question	Technology	How are you going to develop your digital and technology service as it stands its poor and limited.
46	question	Central Library	Is the central library going to be a childrens library then?

Comments from the audience

	Type	Theme	Content
1	comment		this is a screenshot of the home page - just want to question why we're calling it Virtual Libraries
2	comment	Consultation	I emailed last week but have had no response from Engage
3	comment	Consultation	Why are the consultation questions soo difficult with some requiring a very different answer to what they pose.?
4	comment	Access	But people who can't leave their local area can't travel to other libraries.
5	comment	Technology	Digital support is excluding to people who are not used to using computers or don't own a computer.
6	comment		We want actual library buildings, not waffly services.
7	comment		This is waffle.
8	comment	Funding	If cuts need to be made, could the highest paid council staff make cuts to their expenses and salaries, rather than punishing the poorest people in places like Radford and Lenton?
9	comment		Promote literacy and reading by keeping libraries open!!
10	comment	Impact	to Cllr Mellen: when these libraries are closed, they will never be replaced. Will they?
11	comment	Impact	Close West Bridgford library! Why is it always the libraries in the deprived areas that get shut down??
12	comment	Process	The factors used to choose which libraries to close do not seem to consider the needs of the users.
13	comment	Access	Close libraries in affluent areas and open them in deprived areas! Much more fair.
14	comment	Impact	If cuts need to be made, could the highest paid council staff voluntarily make cuts to their salaries. This would mean that the future generations don't need to be punished. Places like Radford and Lenton, where children might need somewhere safe to do their homework? These cuts hurt the most vulnerable, that's why it's so difficult to stomach
15	comment	Access	Bulwell Library is NOT in easy walking distance from Basford. It's a half hour walk - not possible with a push chair and a small child, or for those who haave difficulty walking.
16	comment	Central Library	I see behind the leader of the council a core goal is: Build a new central library making it the best children's library in the UK. Does this goal have a best before date?
17	comment	Funding	In the accompanying press release when the consultation was launched David Mellen referred to the £330m in lost funds from central government since 2010. Surely the Council has a responsibility to its citizens and not to bending the knee to central government all of the time. It's time for the Council to send Sir Tony Redmond packing (Government apparatchik) and resist all of these cutbacks; otherwise when is it going to end?
18	comment	Central Library	So the new library is going to be a childrens library not a better one than the central one you closed, why?
19	comment	Access	Sherwood isn't that close to Basford.
20	comment	Access	Basford isn't anywhere near to Sherwood. It takes about an hour to walk between the two
21	comment	Technology	Digital support is excluding to people who are not used to using computers or don't own a computer.
22	comment	Impact	Re. John Carroll - Aspley is seeing consultation on the closure of two Children's Centres too. Feels like some areas are being targeted for cuts.
23	comment	Central Library	If the new library is going to be a childrens library, where are the students you speak of, from the college going to go
24	comment	Access	Bulwell Library is NOT in easy walking distance from Basford. It's a half hour walk - not possible with a push chair and a small child, or for those who haave difficulty walking.
25	comment	Impact	David Mellen says he doesn't want people to be abandoned. Will the future generations of young people who aren't able to take out books to support their literacy feel abandoned. Will the children who don't have anywhere safe to use a computer or do their homework feel abandoned? Will everyone who can't join a club or an educational class feel abandoned?
26	comment	Access	Thank you David thst was what I meant regarding Sherwood and Basford and timing
27	comment	Impact	Re: John Carroll Centre. I am hopeful that now you recognise than multiple closures you may consider.
28	comment	Impact	(reconsider)(Re: John Carroll Centre. I am hopeful that now you recognise than multiple closures you may consider.)
29	comment	Access	The Mary Potter library is not a good place to go for study or research. it is too busy with the other services in there. and very small space, especially if in a wheelchair and therefore not truly accessible

30	comment	Access	It is also half an hour's walk from Basford to Sherwood Library - i.e. one hour's walk return. With a toddler? With walking problems? Please, would you go visit a library regularly if it took one hour to walk there and back?
31	comment	Access	I think you're saying they can't get to other libraries easily?
32	comment	Access	Old Basford School, took my children to the library to Basford library, regularly, before COVID. i can't see them walking all the way to Sherwood!
33	comment	Access	Councillor Mellen, you say you don't want people to feel abandoned, but in reality you abandoned the poorest and most needy with these cuts. It isn't good enough to say just get on a bus, Basford is a long way from Sherwood, and the poorest wouldn't be able to just get on a bus. These cuts impact the worst off
34	comment	Process	The factors used to choose which libraries to close do not seem to consider the needs of the users.
35	comment	Access	To be fair there is no public transport from Radford on Lenton side to Mary Potter just walking or via town
36	comment	Technology	The library online service is not good, issues with getting on this meeting prove that. why was NCC so unprepared for this online meeting, such as providing this meeting in the libraries. not providing this in the libraries for free shows your lack of equality and diversity
37	comment	Impact	Re. John Carroll - Aspley is seeing consultation on the closure of two Children's Centres too. Feels like some areas are being targeted for cuts.
38	comment	Impact	how many of those who are making these decision actually live in the City area. It is always easier for those who don't live in the area to make decisions about things that will never affect them?
39	comment		I wish the reference to people being referred to as particular demographics is stopped being used - it is a term used by local government officers maybe but not generally ordinary citizens of Nottm. Refer to people as older, young, ethnic minorities etc which people do understand
40	comment	Staffing	A significant part of accessing libraries can be being able to talk to librarians about suitable books and building trust in librarians, this is important as well as books on shelves available to order from another library.
41	comment	Access	Councillor Mellen, you say you don't want people to feel abandoned, but in reality you abandoned the poorest and most needy with these cuts. It isn't good enough to say just get on a bus, Basford is a long way from Sherwood, and the poorest wouldn't be able to just get on a bus. These cuts impact the worst off
42	comment	Access	Councillor Mellen, you say you don't want people to feel abandoned, but in reality you abandoned the poorest and most needy with these cuts. It isn't good enough to say just get on a bus, Basford is a long way from Sherwood, and the poorest wouldn't be able to just get on a bus. These cuts impact the worst off
43	comment	Access	David Mellen says he doesn't want people to be abandoned. Will the future generations of young people who aren't able to take out books to support their literacy feel abandoned. Will the children who don't have anywhere safe to use a computer or do their homework feel abandoned? Will everyone who can't join a club or an educational class feel abandoned?
44	comment	Funding	If cuts need to be made, could the highest paid council staff make cuts to their expenses and salaries, rather than punishing the poorest people in places like Radford and Lenton?
45	comment	Consultation	Please can you put questions up moderator, it is not for you to decide what does or does not get answered. This a democratic consultation
46	comment	Access	Aspley library is on the edge of Aspley across the road is Basford and Whitemoor. I live Whitemoor and can walk to Aspley Library in 10 minutes but would have to catch buses to Bulwell or Hyson Green and walk where the traffic is very busy and not safe
47	comment	Funding	David has referred to cuts from central government a number of times. This is obviously true. However, are there any other reasons why Nottingham's finances are in such a mess?
48	comment	Central Library	Don't rush on the new library as you have lost the users through shutting the central one. and its only a childrens one where the ncc are stopping the funding for notts children, so makes nonsense
49	comment		Old Hyson Green library is also a school, dont you know whats going on DM?
50	comment	Access	Councillor Kellen you say you don't want people to feel abandoned but these cuts target the most vulnerable, you are a labour council abandoning the most vulnerable and needy. It's not good enough to say get on a bus, it's ages from basford to Sherwood and buses are expensive
51	comment	Funding	Aren't the financial difficulties due to bad management NCC?
52	comment	Partnerships	As someone who ran the Public Health Resource Centre Library decommissioned in 2019 by the Council, it seems ironic that David Mellen cites working more with public health colleagues to promote health and wellbeing in a partnership with public libraries.
53	comment	Funding	David has referred to cuts from central government a number of times. This is obviously true. However, are there any other reasons why Nottingham's finances are in such a mess?
54	comment	Funding	DM you was on the council when the miss use of funds happened (robin Hood) you are accountable and should stand down and investigated . what happen was and is criminal, you allowed it to happen and should not hold public office
55	comment	Impact	My apologies if I appear disrespectful: Leisure centre, library, children's centre... what's next for Radford?

56	comment	Process	£1000 a day doesn't sound "small" to me!
57	comment		It was not just lack of visibility it was that when I got to Mary Potter library finally it was computers that greeted me and I could not really see where the staff were
58	comment	Central Library	DM you talk of the new central library but central was for all. Behind your head is a sign that says central to be a childrens library, so what is it going to be David?
59	comment	Impact	I just told my children (12 & 14) they want to close Basford library and in unison they said "why?"
60	comment	Impact	Perhaps the metaphor of the old book could be applied to the old libraries. Keep them on the catalogue but find alternative uses. Radford is on three strikes now: Children's centre, library, and leisure centre. Where can I see my ward councillor for Radford if these services are closed, pleased?
61	comment	Impact	(please)(Perhaps the metaphor of the old book could be applied to the old libraries. Keep them on the catalogue but find alternative uses. Radford is on three strikes now: Children's centre, library, and leisure centre. Where can I see my ward councillor for Radford if these services are closed, pleased?)
62	comment	Consultation	can consultations be made to children not just adults the voice of the child is important too
63	comment		Is the moderator a Council employee, and how much are they being paid, to avoid posting the difficult questions?