



## **Shape the Vision: Have Your Say on the Future of Nottingham City Library Service**

**Nottingham City Council faces an unprecedented situation and must make significant financial savings across its services. Nottingham City Libraries need to save £1.5 million over the next 2 years. This amounts to just over 38% of the library services existing budget. It's a daunting challenge, and one that will require changing how library services are delivered to the residents of Nottingham.**

Nottingham City Council has a legal duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all those who live, work or study in the City (Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964).

Nottingham has 15 library buildings, including the new Central Library but, in the face of the current budget challenges, the Council is proposing significant changes to the library network. The proposal, subject to a 12-week public consultation beginning this May, aims to streamline operations and ensure the sustainability of the library service.

## **Proposal for delivering savings and maintaining an efficient library service**

### **Streamlining and Efficiency**

Under this proposal, the number of libraries would reduce from 15 to 11. This potentially would mean the closure of four libraries - Aspley, Basford, Bilborough, and Radford-Lenton.

In addition, the proposal includes reducing opening hours across the remaining 11 libraries, reducing staff numbers and lowering how much we spend on books, IT and operating costs. We expect these proposed measures to save £1.5 million, allowing the Council to keep a library service that benefits the greatest number of people.

### **Our Ongoing Commitment**

Nottingham City Council remains committed to delivering a comprehensive and efficient library experience, and would seek to retain:

- Eleven libraries, with ten libraries open on at least 5 days a week
- A new modern, bright Central Library
- Activities and events across our libraries
- Book loans, eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers
- Free Wi-Fi and computer access across our libraries
- Skilled and specialist staff available to help
- Welcoming, safe, warm spaces accessible to all
- Study space across our libraries
- A new Sherwood Library (Summer 2024)
- Local Nottingham history and Picture Nottingham digital picture archives (Local Studies)
- Home Library Service (HLS)
- Bookstart - book gifting scheme for under 5s
- Nottingham Performing Arts Library (NPALs)
- Business and Intellectual Property Centres (BIPC)

## SHAPE THE VISION



### Looking Forward: Ambitions for Tomorrow

Though the economic circumstances are difficult right now, things may improve in the future.

Long-term goals include fostering partnerships, building a robust volunteer network, expanding the digital offer, and exploring technology-enabled solutions for increased accessibility.

### Seeking Your Ideas

Recognising the best ideas often come from the community itself, the Council invites residents, organisations and partners to propose alternative suggestions to help us meet our budget savings.

**No decisions have been finalised**, and input from this consultation will play a key role in shaping the future of Nottingham's libraries.

**Your Voice Matters:** Nottingham City Council emphasises that every opinion counts. No decision will be made in isolation; rather, the input gathered will inform the way forward. Over the next 12-weeks, as part of the consultation, the Council will engage with organisations and networks across the city to ensure that as many voices are heard as possible and considered in this crucial decision-making process.

### Join the Conversation

Take part in the 12-week consultation by completing the survey, this can be done either online or completing a paper survey in any of our libraries.

During June and July, we will be running a series of online and in-person consultation sessions on the future of library services. These will be held on:

- **Friday 7 June**, 2.30pm to 4.30pm at [The Council House](#), Old Market Square, NG1 2DT.
- **Monday 10 June**, 6.30pm to 8.30pm at [Harvey Hadden Sports Village](#), Wigman Road, Nottingham NG8 4PB.
- **Tuesday 11 June**, 6.30pm to 8.30pm at [Bulwell Riverside Library](#), Main St, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 8QJ.
- **Friday 14 June**, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, online. Register by [clicking here](#).

**For further information, and supporting information, please see our libraries website:**

[www.nottinghamcitylibraries.co.uk/shape-the-vision](http://www.nottinghamcitylibraries.co.uk/shape-the-vision)