

...enlightening
Bedford Borough Libraries
...inspiring ...stimulating ...surprising ...motivating

Bedford Borough Libraries Mobile and Library Link Consultation



The Borough Council has to find savings of £27 million by 2020. As part of that process the council has carried out an extensive consultation on the future of the Library Service, with a view to modernising services and delivering savings of £274,000.

One of the recommendations agreed by Executive Committee is that the Mobile and Library Link services should be reconfigured to deliver a more efficient service, with a change in the type of vehicle used to deliver the Library Link Service and a reconfiguration of the Mobile Library Service routes and timetables.

This consultation is to ensure that what we are planning is fit for purpose and that we listen to all sectors of the community.

Information about the proposals is available on the vehicles, in libraries, at the Customer Contact Centre and Borough Hall, as well as on line at www.bedford.gov.uk/mobileconsultation.

The closing date for responses is 9th June 2017.

Please place your form in the box provided on the vehicle or ask the driver for a pre-paid envelope, or post it to:
Consulting Bedford, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP.

Where we are now:

The Mobile Library service, based at Kempston Library, operates five days a week including alternate Saturdays. It visits 40 communities across the Borough over a two week period and makes a total of 182 stops per month.

Library Link provides a service to people who are unable to reach their local library due to ill health, frailty, lack of mobility or other limiting health conditions. This service is largely delivered via the Library Link Mobile which operates 20 routes around the Borough per month, making regular visits to individual housebound users, residential homes, sheltered housing schemes and other locations.

What will the changes mean?

The Mobile Library is now 9.5 years old and the Library Link Mobile is 12 years old. Both vehicles are approaching the end of their useful life and are overdue for renewal.

The Mobile Library will be replaced with a new, more cost efficient vehicle and the Library Link Mobile with a smaller, more flexible delivery vehicle with a reconfiguration of the timetables and routes to accommodate these changes. This will allow a one off reduction in vehicle replacement costs of £65,000 and an ongoing saving in running costs of £7,000 per annum.

What happens next?

Senior Officers and the Portfolio Holder (Councillor responsible for Libraries) will consider all responses to the consultation. The outcome will be published on the Bedford Borough Council website, and information will be made available in libraries and on the vehicles.

Your views about these proposals

Please have a look at the following questions and tell us what you think.

1) In what capacity are you responding? (Please tick one box only).

As a Mobile or Library Link service user

As a relative or carer of a Mobile or Library Link service user

As a Councillor

School

Care home staff

Other (please specify)

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

2) If you are responding in relation to a particular stop, area or village, please tell us where. (Please state village or street).

3) To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed timetable for your community? (Please tick one box only).

Strongly agree

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Disagree

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Agree

Strongly disagree

No view

Don't know

4) Please give us any comments or suggestions in relation to the proposals. (Please state which stop/village/area you are referring to).

5) Do you have any other comments about the Mobile or Library Link Service?

As a public body we have a duty to ensure that what we do does not discriminate against people with protected characteristics. These are: gender; age; ethnicity; disability; faith / religion; sexual preference; gender reassignment; and pregnancy. Please tell us if you believe that any of the proposed actions in the budget proposals would have an adverse impact on any of these groups, or if you feel we could do anything more to ensure discrimination does not take place. (please write in)

ABOUT YOU

The following information is for our records, and aims to ensure that we listen to the views of all sectors of our community. It will help us understand responses in greater detail by seeing 'who thinks what'.

Like the rest of the form, all the questions are optional and any responses received will be treated in confidence.

Gender (please tick one box only)

- Male* *Female* *Prefer not to say*

What is your age? (please tick one box only)

- Under 18* *25 - 34* *45 - 54* *65 +*
 18 - 24 *35 - 44* *55 - 64* *Prefer not to say*

Do you have any of the following conditions? (please tick one box only)

- A physical disability* *Learning difficulties*
 A sensory disability *Any other long term condition*
 A mental health condition *Prefer not to say*
 None of the above

Data Protection Act 1998

Please note that the information supplied on this form will be held and/or computerised by Bedford Borough Council and the Consultation Team for the purpose of this consultation. Comments received may be published, but no individual personal details will be disclosed under these circumstances.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your views.

If you would like to receive email updates about the library service, please leave us your e-mail address:
