

B.M.D.C. Libraries Consultation 29th January 2019. Bingley Library

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- Libraries must find budget saving of £950000. Costs of lease of City Centre Library are high. Council have agreed to cover that cost so now savings to be found reduced to £530000.
- They wish to retain all 29 libraries.
- Proposed that Keighley, Shipley and City library become hubs, which will offer a range of Council services. These are multi-purpose sites which are better positioned to support other libraries through better sharing of resources, improved technology and improved use of buildings and services. There will be greater use of community volunteers.
- Staff restructuring. Back office services have been reviewed, 17 staff have moved to frontline services to improve how community volunteer libraries are managed. This will allow community libraries to be more independent. There are now designated posts to liaise and develop community libraries.
- Use of casual staff has been reduced.
- Volunteer programme to developed.
- In order to to support a 30% reduction in materials fund (i.e. books] there will be book sharing schemes and collaborative buying.
- Proposed to increase charges for users of items such as photocopying.
- The home delivery service will continue.
- There is no mobile library service in the district.

Questions and comments from the floor.

Why is Bingley not to be a hub?

- It doesn't have the same infrastructure as Keighley and Shipley.
- In 2020-2021 there will be much more in-depth consultation on the library service.

What are libraries doing to encourage more use and engagement?

- Intention to promote through outreach programmes and develop of why libraries not used.

How do you quantify the benefits of libraries for health and well – being.

- Unanswered.

Why are books disappearing?

- They are replaced by I.T. Resources and community services.

Comments:

- Bingley Library – particular problems with youths hanging about and causing a nuisance. This puts people off coming here. It was pointed out that police, schools and B.T.C. are aware and working to address the issues.
- Christina Donnelly Officer for Young People is to be involved and to look for solutions.
- Staff – have been on notice for past 3 years – demoralising and demotivating. Leads to loss of dedicated trained staff, expertise, experience and trusted sources of information. Volunteers do not provide stability and cannot support isolated users.