

Library strategy FAQs

The Library Strategy consultation is designed to seek your views on the future of the service and what it offers, to help us shape the best approach for library provision over the next 10 years. We want your views to help inform what customer priorities are and what you value and use most.

In the past we consulted on Libraries as part of the Community Access Review but the focus then was to establish whether any sites could offer dual services (such as children's centre activities), review opening times and other logistics of delivering the service.

This time we are concentrating on customer experience and access to services rather than looking at specific sites and locations. We are still looking for opportunities to work more closely with partners and communities and to find out how the library service can deliver the most important outcomes for local people and as such we are keen to gather as much information as possible.

The information and feedback will help us to develop a Libraries strategy which invests in the services that are the most important to local residents.

On the following pages you'll find answers to commonly-asked questions about the Library Strategy that may arise as you go through the consultation questions.



Why are you consulting on a 10-year strategy for the library service?

We are using this consultation to find out what a modern library service, that suits our customer needs, should look like. We will be seeking your opinions on what our priorities should be and what you value and use most. This is your library service and your chance to help us shape the future of it for the coming 10 years.

Are you planning to close any libraries?

There are no current plans to close libraries and this is not something that the strategy or consultation will cover. This consultation is about getting a clearer picture of the priorities of local communities and aligning them with the existing and future libraries service.

Are there further cuts to the library service budget?

No cuts or further budget savings are proposed in the 2020-21 budget for the library service but this could change in the future. We know that running costs remain steadily rising and it is our intention to draw together a strategy that best uses the resources we do have to match the needs of our local communities.

We want to understand what our communities value so we can plan for the future. However, council budgets continue to be under pressure and this could affect the library service in the future.

In the last consultation in 2018 there was lots of discussion about Nailsea and Clevedon libraries. What are the plans for Nailsea and Clevedon?

Decisions about the any potential change to the location of Nailsea and Clevedon libraries have not been made and therefore the service remains in the current locations in these areas. Local engagement and consultation will take place if plans are developed for any changes in the future.

Here are the addresses for Nailsea and Clevedon libraries:

Nailsea Library, Somerset Square, Nailsea, BS48 1RQ

Clevedon Library, 37 Old Church Road, Clevedon, BS21 6NN.

How can I volunteer in my local library?

Volunteering for the library service can give you the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills, improve your CV for future job prospects and help your local community.

We have a wide variety of volunteering opportunities at many of our libraries. These include:

- helping to deliver story and Rhymetime sessions
- supporting people to get online with computers and tablets
- choosing and delivering books for the home library service

To find out more, visit <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/jobs/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities/> or e-mail library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk

Can my community take on more of a role to help with a local library?

There are many examples of communities taking on roles in libraries, varying from community volunteers staffing the libraries through to communities running their own local libraries and community centres. In North Somerset, Congresbury Library is run by the local community and Long Ashton is looking at setting up an independent local library and community facility. We are keen to hear from communities who are interested in supporting local libraries in this consultation.

How do I find out more about the current library service locations and opening times?

Library locations and opening times are available here:

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/leisure/libraries/find-a-library/yourlocallibrary

Can I talk to you in person about my thoughts?

Yes, we will be holding a number of face-to-face engagement meetings in various locations across North Somerset. Representatives from each service will be there to talk with you about the consultation and answer any queries you might have.