



Library Transformation Strategy – A layman’s guide by Friends of RBWM Libraries

RBWM Council is proposing to transform its library service, whilst ensuring our communities remain resilient and citizens independent, information provided is trusted, resources are well managed and offer value for money. However, RBWM **must** make savings of £8 million and it is proposed that Libraries contribute £292k towards this target. A consultation has been launched to gather feedback.

The Friends of RBWM Libraries, a charity run by volunteers to support the work of the borough libraries, has produced this guide to help and encourage residents to contribute to the consultation.

So how will these changes affect its 150,000+ RBWM residents: -

- LTS proposes all libraries in RBWM, except Ascot Library, will either have their opening hours further reduced or close completely.
- **Reduced** Library weekly opening hours from **478 hours** (1) to **240.5 hours** (2) per week
- 4 Community Libraries will close, Boyne Grove, Datchet, Old Windsor and Sunninghill
- The Container Library currently serving 5 sites (Furze Platt, Holyport, Sunningdale, Woodlands & Wraysbury) will be permanently positioned at one site only.
- The Mobile library will make additional stops at closed libraries. Pre-pandemic operating Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm only.
- Library users of closed community libraries will be re-directed to make use of Ascot, Maidenhead and Windsor Libraries.
- Schools in the borough will be encouraged to buy into the Reader Development Service – packages range from £350 to £2500 per annum.
- Implementation of a Library App & all Library transactions made via a Smartphone.
- RBWM state they will loan digital resources e.g., tablets.
- RBWM libraries will ensure better publicity of library resources available.
- Continue with Volunteer-led IT assistance and training for residents.
- RBWM libraries state they will ensure the digital approach does not exclude residents.

So, what next: -

- The Library consultation runs from 8th February – 30th April 2021, please complete it at: -
<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/consultations/library-consultations>

How can I find out more information? -

- RBWM Public Libraries Opening Hours Reduction/ Closures (consultation ran until Nov 2020) is available at
<https://rbwm.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34281/2021-01-07%20Cabinet%20Report%20Library%20Opening%20Hours%20Reduction%20Public%20Consultation.pdf> (1)
- RBWM Library Transformation Strategy (Jan 2021) is available at
<https://rbwm.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s34276/2021-01-12%20Library%20Transformation%20Strategy%20Cabinet%20Report.pdf> (2)
- To join the Friends email rbwm.fol@gmail.com

Speak to your local councillor, make your voice heard, fill out the consultation.

THANK YOU.

Friends of RBWM Libraries 17th February 2021