Wiltshire's libraries – Plans for change

Wiltshire Council is facing a budget reduction of 28.4% over the coming years. To help the council meet this target, the library service will need to reduce its budget by a similar amount.

Following comprehensive consultation, which included area boards, customer focus groups, plans for how the library service will manage its reduced budget were approved by Wiltshire Council's Cabinet on 25 January 2011. The savings will be made by reducing the library stock fund by £149,000 per year to £707,000 per year, by rationalising library opening hours and by working with volunteers to operate our smallest libraries and to extend opening hours at other locations.

Key points from the plans:

- All 31 of Wiltshire's libraries will be retained
- All five of Wiltshire's mobile libraries will be retained
- All libraries will still receive funding from Wiltshire council for premises costs, power, cleaning and computer systems
- Library stock would continue to be provided to all library branches

 The main changes are:

- Wiltshire's 21 largest libraries would see a reduction in their opening hours. See overleaf for detail
- Reductions would be more significant in libraries serving smaller communities
- Wiltshire's 10 smallest libraries, accounting for 3% of visits overall, would be operated in partnership with volunteers, supported by the library service
- Opening hours would be rationalised so similar sized communities would have the same library opening hours
- Self service technology would be introduced to all libraries to improve efficiency and help communities extend library opening hours through support from volunteers, who will be trained and supported by Wiltshire library staff

Wiltshire Council is fully committed to its libraries and understands how important they are to communities. These plans would allow the council to retain its current network of libraries and mobile library stops.

For more information on how local libraries would be affected see the table overleaf.

If you are interested in volunteering please register your interest on the back page of this leaflet.

Library name	Current opening hours	Proposed opening hours	Evenings (until 7pm)	Saturday
Salisbury	55	53	3	9am – 5pm
Chippenham	55	49	3	9am – 5pm
Trowbridge	52	49	3	9am – 5pm
Devizes	51	43	2	9.30am – 4pm
Warminster	46	43	2	9.30am – 4pm
Bradford on Avon	46	40	2	9.30am – 4pm
Calne	46	40	2	9.30am – 4pm
Melksham	42	40	2	9.30am – 4pm
Wootton Bassett	39.5	40	2	9.30am – 4pm
Amesbury	42	33	2	9.30am – 1pm
Corsham	39.5	33	2	9.30am – 1pm
Malmesbury	38.5	33	2	9.30am – 1pm
Marlborough	42.5	33	2	9.30am – 1pm
Westbury	38.5	33	2	9.30am – 1pm
Mere	45	31	1	10 - 1
Pewsey	24	17	1	10 - 1
Tidworth*	34	34	2	10 - 1
Cricklade	20	14	1	No
Downton	26	14	1	No
Wilton	30	14	1	No
Aldbourne	10	Opening hours at these 10 smallest will be agreed with each Community and will depend upon the number of volunteers available (we aim for a minimum 3 hours opening per week) These library branches will have five hours of support each week from trained library staff, who will carry out essential back office tasks and train and support volunteers.		
Box	12			
Durrington	19			
Ludgershall	19			
Lyneham	15			
Market Lavington	10			
Netheravon	10			
Purton	16			
Ramsbury	10			
Tisbury	13			

* Tidworth library operates under a management agreement with HM Armed Forces

Your views

The council has approved these plans to achieve the savings required over the next two years but welcomes your views on them for future service planning.

- Please complete the feedback form and return it to your local library or to Library HQ, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8BS.

If you wish to make a comment about the plans please use the box below

Volunteering

Would you consider volunteering to help at your local library?

Yes	No

If yes and you would like more information about volunteering in libraries please give your details below:

Email	
Phone	
Address	

About you

Are you:	Male	Female

Postcode [   ]   House name/number [   ]

Your age	Under 18	18-24	25-34	35-44
	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+

Are you a member of the library?

Yes	No

Which library do you normally use? [   ]

Do you use any other library? [   ]