

<p>ANNEX D</p> <p>Vivacity Library Hours</p>	<p>Feedback from the Council's budget consultation:</p> <p>I hope these comments may be passed on and taken into consideration when making decisions about the cutting of opening hours in our local libraries.</p> <p>I am a teacher and literacy coordinator at William Law primary school in Werrington, Peterborough. At present all Year 3 and Year 4 children at William Law attend a weekly session at Werrington library and we would like to pass on our thanks for all the help and support offered to all those who visit the library. It is always a highlight of the week and parents have commented that their children are more 'in' to reading as a result.</p> <p>The close relationship between a local library and school is vital for the children I teach. Some do not have access to books at home and would otherwise never set foot inside a library. Our visits have encouraged many to apply for their very first library card and enjoy choosing books. This, I'm sure you will agree, is a wonderful thing. To share with children a</p>	<p>Response sent by the Council:</p> <p>We regret that the council is faced with having to consider revising library opening hours as part of its budget proposals. The council will, of course, consider the feedback from the current consultation processes before making any decisions.</p> <p>These types of decisions are never easy to take, but, unfortunately, the challenges the council faces at this time are unprecedented, as the funding from the government has been reduced by one third. I am sure you appreciate, that regrettably, the council has to review a whole range of services in order to secure a balanced budget, as well as maintaining effective services.</p>
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	<p>love of reading is so precious. The staff are so generous with their time, always stopping to read a story to each class.</p> <p>I was therefore worried and disappointed to hear that yet again our local library is facing cuts in hours. They offer so many wonderful groups, school sessions and story times that it must be increasingly hard to squeeze it all in. Please consider the impact shorter opening hours will have on our children.</p>	
Vivacity Library Hours	<p>Feedback from the Council's budget consultation:</p> <p>We appreciate that if cuts have to be made in libraries, it is preferable to reduce opening hours rather than closing libraries, or indeed reducing spending on new stock.</p> <p>However, Peterborough seems over the last few years to have gone from having among the best opening hours in the region, to among the worst, even before these new cuts. For example Stamford library is open 55 hours a week, more than Peterborough Central, and vastly more than, say, Werrington, which is a more equivalent comparison. Currently, before the new cuts, Peterborough Central is open 52.5 hours and</p>	<p>Response sent by the Council:</p> <p>Peterborough currently spends £10,465 for every 1000 people on library services, in total just under £2 million a year. The average expenditure for an authority of similar size is approximately £16,000 per 1000 population. However, the library services performance remains disproportionately high compared to the level of investment.</p> <p>We already work collaboratively and are exploring more ways of working with other councils.</p> <p>Our main book contract was awarded and has been managed through the Mid-Anglia</p>

	<p>Werrington, 37 hours.</p> <p>So why are Peterborough libraries open less? Is Peterborough spending less on libraries than neighbouring authorities or does Peterborough suffer from being a smaller authority with fewer economies of scale? If the latter is the case, would it be worth considering consortium working with other library authorities? This is being developed in London and other parts of the country. For example, in the Bristol area around five authorities run a joint catalogue under the Libraries West initiative. This certainly gives users a more extensive range of books and may also result in savings.</p> <p>It would be disappointing if continuing cuts are made to library opening hours without considering the full range of options for reducing costs while maintaining the service.</p>	<p>Consortium (MAC). MAC includes Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland and is managed under an ESPO framework guaranteeing us excellent discounts on spending.</p> <p>Peterborough was also an early adopter of Civica's library management system alongside Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Lincolnshire.</p> <p>This may afford us the opportunity to work more collaboratively with these authorities and enable us to share stock or enable borrowers to use all venues irrespective of operating authority.</p> <p>The model we would seek to emulate would be that of SELMS who operate collaboratively within the South-East of England.</p>
	<p>It is our opinion that any further reductions in the opening hours of the Werrington Library will have a significant impact on the Library's ability to provide an effective service to the Werrington Community.</p>	<p>We regret that the council is faced with having to consider revising library opening hours as part of its budget proposals. The council will, of course, consider the feedback from the current consultation processes before making any decisions.</p>

	<p>The 2011/12 budget restrictions resulted in a reduction in opening hours of Werrington Library from 45.5 to 37 hours (a reduction of 18.6%).</p> <p>There are now further proposals in the latest budget review to reduce the opening hours by an additional 8 hours (a 21.6% reduction on top of the previous reduction of 18.6%, or put another way a reduction overall since early 2011 of 36%), which would leave the Library open for only 29 hours a week.</p> <p>If these proposals are implemented there is a real danger of destroying many of the benefits of a Library system.</p> <p>FOWL appreciate the difficulties in meeting the financial constraints resulting from the current economic situation, but we are concerned that the impact of reducing the library opening hours are not fully appreciated by those making the decisions on the local electorates behalf.</p> <p>The reduction in hours will have a direct impact on many aspects of the normal library function, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The lending of books and audio material. -Research, through the reference section 	<p>These types of decisions are never easy to take, but, unfortunately, the challenges the council faces at this time are unprecedented, as the funding from the government has been reduced by one third. I am sure you appreciate, that regrettably, the council has to review a whole range of services in order to secure a balanced budget, as well as maintaining effective services.</p>
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	<p>-Provision of Reading Groups for Adults and children, access by local Primary schools for library training and literacy development - all assisting in the greater national desire to improve literacy within the community</p> <p>-Access to computers, especially important in hard times - used for research, keeping in touch, job hunting, writing CV's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library groups in areas such as Family History involving the use of computers, national records and local research facilities. - Computer skills classes <p>-Use of the premises for Local Councillor Surgery</p> <p>For your information and in support of some of the points above, you may be interested that, in a typical week, excluding Council Surgery and FOWL events, approximately 1500 people visit Werrington Library and 247 are involved in activities arranged within the Library,</p> <p>Of these: 6 sessions over 4 days are for are children from William Law School. 163 children attend. 2 family history groups on 2 days 10 people attend</p>	
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	<p>9 separate storytime/reading groups covering the under 7's through to teenagers to which 34 attend 1 Rhymetime which is attended by 7 babies and toddlers with parents and grandparents 3 separate craft sessions which on average 19 attend Homework club, silver surfers and several other groups.</p> <p>As well as the above there are also Council surgeries and FOWL events.</p> <p>All this is in addition to the normal Werrington library services where on average; 7000 books are issued a month and over 900 computer bookings are made.</p> <p>We realise that all these facts and figures in isolation mean very little, however if the proposed cuts are implemented it is likely that the library will not only have to close on at least 1, or possibly 2 days a week but it will also not be open outside normal working hours except for a limited period on Saturdays.</p> <p>This will have a significant impact on the Libraries ability to meet its customers (your electorate) requirements.</p>	
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	<p>Libraries at times of potentially increasing unemployment and reducing disposable incomes are even more important than in times of plenty.</p> <p>Literacy and knowledge are vital to the future of our society</p> <p>Rather than reducing their availability to the community we should be doing everything within our power to promote them and get more people reading, i.e. improving the levels of literacy and knowledge in society (The primary objective of FOWL) ."</p> <p>Libraries allow the vulnerable to have a place to go to gain knowledge and information, socialise and dare one say, keep warm and safe.</p> <p>It is in all our interests to make such facilities more available, not less.</p> <p>On behalf of FOWL we would ask that you do whatever is within your powers to ensure that the Werrington Library is protected when the final budget allocations are discussed at the forthcoming budget meetings.</p>	
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	<p>Friends of Werrington Library (FOWL) will be delivering a petition to the City Council calling for the Werrington Library to maintain its opening hours at the current level of 37.</p> <p>I would rather see hours at the libraries saved than extra editions of Your Peterborough.</p> <p>Libraries could also be a source of information about the changes. They are easily located within their communities unlike old copies of Your Peterborough.</p> <p>Libraries can also hold the appropriate documents so they can be accessed there and then.</p> <p>Many are still not on the internet so that public computers help to keep them connected - reducing hours limits this access.</p>	<p>Petition to be brought to the attention of Cabinet Members.</p> <p>As mentioned many residents still do not have the internet - Your Peterborough allows us to communicate with residents about our services and plans, and although we engage with the media and have social media sites, this is not the case for all residents, particularly older residents. By producing a quarterly magazine that is distributed to every household in the city we are ensuring that we can communicate key issues with all residents.</p>
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