

Somerset Library Services Consultation 2018 Summary

Tell us your views on how we are proposing to deliver future library services in Yeovil and Surrounds - Area 6 - Martock, Milborne Port, Sunningdale, South Petherton and Yeovil libraries.

We'd like to invite you to tell us your views on some potential changes we are considering making to the future delivery of library services in your community and across Somerset.

Somerset County Council is fully committed to continuing to deliver a thriving, modern library service across Somerset. As with many Authorities, however, we continue to face challenging financial times. Somerset County Council received £90million in 2013/14 from central government to support our services. This has reduced to just over £26million for 2017/18 and is set to reduce to nothing by 2020/21- whilst demand for services has increased, particularly in adult and children social care. We have managed to reduce our library budget by 20% since 2011, whilst keeping all of our libraries open. Going forward, we may need to consider more challenging changes in order to keep the Libraries Service on a sustainable financial footing.

The following summary proposal provides **options** for the libraries in this area exploring how we might deliver library services in your community in future. There are another eight area summary proposals available to view, which include library proposals for the remaining areas of Somerset.

Please carefully read the following information, consider the five proposed options then complete the questionnaire, basing your answers on the library you visit most often.

We stress that no decisions about the future delivery of library services in any community have been taken at this time and the results of this consultation will be taken into account in our decision-making. No decisions will be made until the results of this consultation (now ending on 10 June) have been fully analysed and reviewed.

More detailed information is available online (www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries_consultation). You can also attend drop-in sessions taking place at some libraries during the consultation to discuss the proposals and give your feedback.

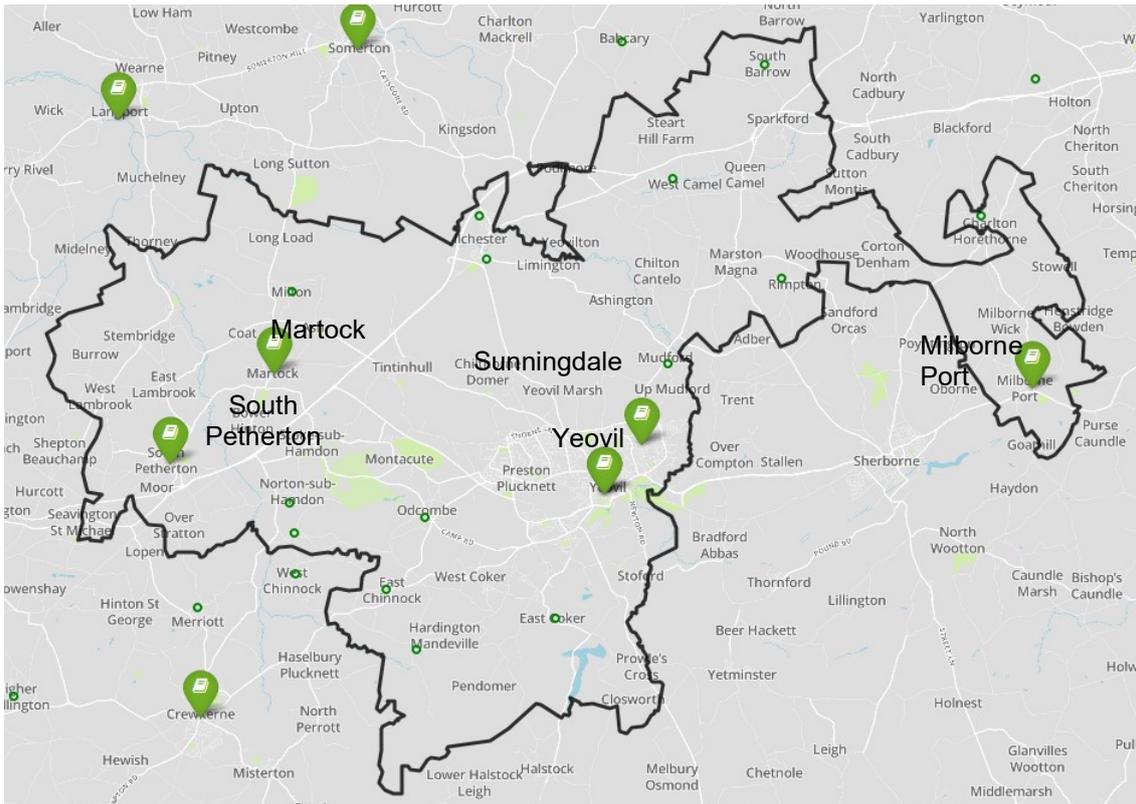
What are library services?

Our 34 Somerset libraries deliver a range of library services including book, audio book and DVD loans, public computer access, reading and support groups, digital skills support, a range of digital resources (such as 3D printing, Microbits and Raspberry PIs), events and activities, business support - and lots more besides.

Many services are available online or through a network of mobile library stops. In addition, we provide a home delivery service for customers unable to visit a library for themselves.

Area 6: Yeovil and surrounding Area

The map below shows the five existing library buildings (green pins) in Martock, Milborne Port, South Petherton, Yeovil (central) and Yeovil (Sunningdale) and the existing mobile library stops (green dots) – 11 stops in this area per month.



- The area includes the central part of South Somerset District.
- It has the third highest population of the 9 library areas (total pop. 79,229), with the majority of people living in the main town of Yeovil (pop. 45,784). There are a number of other sizeable communities, including Martock (pop. 4,522), South Petherton (pop. 3,064), Milborne Port (pop. 2,802), Stoke sub Hamdon (2,415), and Ilchester (pop. 2,153), as well as many smaller villages.
- Yeovil library catchment covers the whole area and extends beyond into other library areas. Other library catchments are more tightly focussed around their library.
- Bus services generally run to Yeovil. Martock and South Petherton are linked to Yeovil by subsidised bus services, also serving many of the villages to the north and west of Yeovil. A commercial service links Yeovil to Milborne Port (and on to Wincanton), and other services run into Yeovil from the southwest (serving some of the villages in this part of the catchment) and the north (serving Ilchester). There are no bus links between Martock, South Petherton

and Crewkerne. Community transport serves the area reasonably well, but services are more limited in Martock. Most community transport runs into Yeovil, but Milborne Port is served by a Wincanton-based community transport service.

- Road links are generally good, and all of the major settlements are within a 15 minute drive of Yeovil. Within Yeovil itself, the town centre is generally within reasonable cycling distance, and a number of urban bus services provide an alternative way into the town centre.
- Levels of deprivation are high in some parts of Yeovil, with two neighbourhoods in the 10% most deprived nationally, and a further 2 neighbourhoods in the 20% most deprived. Outside Yeovil, the only notable area of deprivation is one neighbourhood in Martock (in the 30% most deprived nationally); much of the rural part of the catchment is relatively wealthy. Employment and income levels are higher than elsewhere in Somerset in many of the rural areas, with the exception of the rural district around Stoford to the south of Yeovil, and in part of Martock.
- Educational attainment and school readiness also tends to be higher in the rural parts of the area – the % of 5 year olds ‘school ready’ ranges from 80-90% in the rural parts of the catchment (including South Petherton and Martock) to around 50% in some parts of Yeovil. Social isolation and digital exclusion are significant issues in Martock and parts of Yeovil, with smaller pockets of digital exclusion in South Petherton, Milborne Port and in the rural areas to the west of Yeovil and around Marston Magna in the north of the area.

	Martock Library	Milborne Port Library	South Petherton Library	Yeovil (central) Library	Yeovil (Sunningdale) Library
Catchment population	15,333	3,790	5,422	114,641	4,795
Opening Hours per week	32.5	14.5	16.5	47.5	14
Active borrowers*	1,224	356	464	8,059	143
Annual footfall	38,945	6,402	7,237	175,281	3,734

Further evidence of need (including deprivation and usage), access to alternative libraries and value for money, which we have used to develop our proposals can be found online at www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation .

The detailed impact assessments can also be found here. We are seeking your views on all of this information, and would encourage you to look at this further detail.

Proposals

The following options demonstrate the aim to keep as many library buildings as possible open. The options highlight, however, that for a number of libraries we may require community support to help us achieve this. We stress that library services will continue across Somerset, whatever the outcome of this consultation.

If we are unable to keep library buildings open in communities, we will deliver library services in other ways, such as through outreach (i.e. in alternative venues within communities), online or mobile library services.

Please now consider the following **option proposals** and complete the questionnaire, basing your answers on the library you visit most often.

MARTOCK LIBRARY	PROPOSALS
Option A	No change to existing library services.
Option B	Provide library services through a partnership with the local community to maintain a library building in Martock (supported by some funding from the County Council).
Option C	Provide library services by delivering Library Outreach Services (events and activities for children and adults) and providing an additional mobile library stop in Martock (at least once a month). This would mean the closure of the current library building.

MILBORNE PORT LIBRARY	PROPOSALS
Option A	Provide library services through a partnership with the local community to maintain a library building in Milborne Port.
Option B	Provide library services through an additional mobile library stop in Milborne Port (at least once a month). This would mean the closure of the current library building.

SOUTH PETHERTON LIBRARY	PROPOSALS
Option A	Provide library services through a partnership with the local community to maintain a library building in South Petherton.
Option B	Provide library services through an additional mobile library stop in South Petherton (at least once a month). This would mean the closure of the current library building.

SUNNINGDALE LIBRARY (YEOVIL)	PROPOSALS
Option A	Provide library services through a partnership with the local community to maintain a library building in Sunningdale.
Option B	Provide library services by delivering Library Outreach Services (events and activities for children and technology activities for adults). We will work with our Family Support service, and other partners, to do this. This would mean the closure of the current library building.

YEOVIL LIBRARY	PROPOSAL
Option A	<p>Library services broadly comparable to the existing service will continue to be provided in the town centre at Yeovil Library. We will continue to explore the potential to share space with other organisations and/or partners, in order to save money, and this could result in a reduction in space available for library services.</p> <p>We propose to provide additional Library Outreach Services (events and activities for children, and technology activities for adults) in the Westfield area of Yeovil, where these are needed most. We will work with other partners, including our Family Support service, to do this. As noted above, under Option B for Sunningdale Library, we would provide Library Outreach Services (events and activities for children, and technology activities for adults) in this part of Yeovil too.</p>

For further detailed information on the proposals, please visit www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation