

Changes to Library Services – Our Ideas 2020

Introduction

The Council runs 6 libraries in Bexley.

We also support 6 other libraries which are run by community groups.

We have ideas to change libraries to help us save money but still help people to use libraries when they need to.

We have done some research about how libraries are used now and what people might want in the future.

We have used that research to think of ideas to run libraries differently.

We want to know what people think of our ideas to help us choose.

Idea 1

At the moment libraries are open all day Monday to Saturday.

At the moment Central Library in Bexleyheath is open on Sunday morning.

At the moment some libraries are open late until 7pm once a week.

The idea for the future is every library will be closed for one day a week or for two half days a week.

They would be closed at times when they usually have fewer visitors.

Libraries that are near to each other would not be closed on the same day.

None of the libraries will be open until 7pm.

We will make sure that some libraries are still open on Saturdays for people who cannot visit during the week.

All libraries will be closed on Sundays.

Idea 2

All libraries have self-service machines that people can use to get or return their books.

Self-service computers can also be used to look up books or book time to use a computer.

With this idea libraries will be open most days but will not always have staff.

You would have to use self-service every morning or every afternoon. Library staff would be there to help you at other times.

There would still be security so that people are safe.

Idea 3

At the moment staff in libraries run events and activities with the help of volunteers.

With this idea there will not be as many activities run by library staff.

We will try to get volunteers or other organisations to run activities in libraries instead.

We will speak to people about what activities they want and try to run those.

Idea 4

At the moment there is a Local Studies and Archives Centre in Bexleyheath.

The Centre is where people can research the history of Bexley or their families.

With this idea the Centre would stay open but would have less staff.

People could still use the Centre but if they need help from staff they would have to make an appointment.

Idea 5

Some libraries are run by community groups and we help them to run by giving them money, staff or help with maintenance.

With this idea we would give them less money or would not give them any money.

They would have to raise the money themselves to carry on running the library.

This might mean they could not carry on running the library.

If this happened we would try to find other people to run it instead.

If we could not find other people to run the library it would close.

Idea 6

The libraries could carry on in the same way they do at the moment.

This would mean that we couldn't save any money.

We need to try to save money because people need more care and support now which costs us more money.

We are interested in other ideas that people may have to help us save money but still have good libraries.

If you want to tell us what you think of our ideas or have your own idea:

- you can fill out our survey online, <https://www.bexley.gov.uk/consultations/changes-library-services-bexley-2020> or
- you can write to us, Bexley Library Service, Foots Cray Offices, Maidstone Road, Sidcup, DA14 5HS or
- you can email us, libraries@bexley.gov.uk