

# Library Service Consultation update

The Libraries Public Consultation has been running since 29 January and 18 of the 19 public drop-in events have taken place across Somerset, with over 1300 people taking part so far.

As of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2,689 completed questionnaires had been submitted (both online and in paper format). More feedback has been received and recorded via email, letter and facilitated discussion groups at many of the drop-in events.

Following feedback from the public, our partners, Councillors, and communities, Cllr David Hall took the decision on Thursday 15 March, to extend the consultation period to **Wednesday June 13<sup>th</sup>** (from 22<sup>nd</sup> April).

Since the start of the consultation, requests for more information relating to Community Library Partnerships and Library Outreach Services have been received. Further guidance on these options for the public has therefore been prepared.

The questionnaires have also been updated so that they are based on an individual library rather than an area. This supplementary information and updated questionnaire will be live on our website ([www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation)) and in each library from **Wednesday 21 March**.

A number of conversations are now taking place across the County as communities explore options and form a view about the best way forward. We are keen that all involved are given sufficient time to present their views and that we have as detailed a response as possible to help shape the final decisions. To enable communities to consider the more detailed information, a further 7 weeks has therefore been added to the original timescale.

All the responses we have received so far count. People who have already responded are encouraged to read the additional information at [www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation) from Wednesday 21 March. If they wish to give any further comments, they can email [librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk). Or alternatively write to Libraries Consultation 2018, B3S, County Hall, Taunton TA1 4DY or contact Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

If you have any queries about the above or other questions about the consultation please email [librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk)