Proposed consultation on Library Opening Hours

Background

The library service wishes to consult on the opening hours off the 47 current libraries that are operational. It is proposed that we introduce a model of banding libraries according to the number of hours per week the library is open. There will be four bands A, B, C, D and each library will be allocated to a band with each band having a set number and pattern of opening hours.

This would result in all the libraries in Lancashire operating to a more consistent pattern and providing a more equitable delivery of service. It will also make the service easier to manage and more efficient from a staffing perspective. Therefore, we wish to consult with both the public and staff on the use of the allocated hours (linked to the bands) and on determining the individual library opening pattern.

The detail of each proposed band i.e. the proposed number of opening hours and opening pattern, is set out in Table 1. The table also demonstrates the hours a day each band would be open during the week.

Table 2 details the proposed band that each specific library would be allocated to, the current hours of opening and the proposed hours of opening.

Table 3 details the libraries that it has been agreed are to re-open and the band (and therefore opening hours) that they will be allocated to if the proposed model is adopted.

If the proposed banding model is implemented there will be a small net gain in the total opening hours across the county. No extra staff hours will be required as current staff hours will be reworked to meet this change.

All our libraries will be closed on [bank and public holidays](#) and some extra statutory dates.

Table 1

Band A Library - 50 hours per week*

4 days	9am – 5pm
1 day	9am – 7pm
Saturday	9am – 5pm

* Harris library will be open 55 hours per week and include Sunday 11am – 4pm

Band B Library - 42 hours per week

3 days	9am – 5pm
1 day	9am – 7pm
1 day	9am – 1pm

Saturday   9am – 1pm

Band C Library - 34 hours per week

2 days   9am – 5pm

1 day   9am – 7pm

1 day   9am – 1pm

Saturday   9am – 1pm

Band D Library - 18 hours per week

1 day   1pm – 5pm

1 day   1pm – 7pm

1 day   9am – 1pm

Saturday   9am – 1pm

Table 2

Library	Band	current hours	Proposed Model hours
Accrington	A	50	50
Adlington	C	30	34
Ansdell	C	38.5	34
Bacup	C	38.5	34
Barnoldswick	B	46	42
Brierfield	C	34.5	34
Burnley	A	51	50
Burscough	C	31	34
Carnforth	C	29.5	34
Chorley	A	51	50
Clayton Green	B	44	42
Clitheroe	A	49	50
Coal Clough	C	33	34
Colne	B	49	42
Coppull	C	31.5	34
Eccleston	C	30.5	34
Euxton	C	30	34
Fleetwood	A	46.5	50
Garstang	B	41.5	42
Great Harwood	C	35.5	34
Halton	D	11	18
Harris (Preston)	A*	57	55

Haslingden	B	41.5	42
Heysham	B	40	42
Ingol	C	31.5	34
Kingsfold	B	37.5	42
Kirkham	C	40	34
Knott End	C	33	34
Lancaster	A	51	50
Leyland	A	49	50
Longridge	B	37.5	42
Longton	B	43.5	42
Mellor	D	13	18
Morecambe	B	51	42
Nelson	A	51	50
Ormskirk	B	51	42
Padiham	C	40	34
Poulton	B	44.5	42
Rawtenstall	A	48	50
Ribbleton	C	28	34
Rishton	C	35	34
Savick	C	28	34
Sharoe Green	C	30	34
Skelmersdale	A	51	50
St. Annes	A	48	50
Tarleton	C	37.5	34
Whitworth	C	28	34
	Total	1847	1859

Table 3

Library	Band	Hours before closure	New hours
Barrowford	C	25	34
Bolton le Sands	C	26.75	34
Burnley Campus	C	55	34
Freckleton	C	30.5	34
Fulwood	B	46	42
Lostock Hall	B	43.5	42
Oswaldtwistle	C	35.5	34
Parbold	C	37.5	34
Silverdale	D	10.5	18
Thornton	B	38.5	42
Whalley	C	36	34
	Total	384.75	382

Timeline

6th September 2017	Cabinet report available for public to view
14th September 2017	Cabinet consider the proposal to consult
1st October 2017	If Cabinet agree, consultation commences in 47 libraries
26th November 2017	Consultation concludes
11th January 2018	Report on the outcomes of the consultation to cabinet
17th January 2018	Amendment of the Library structure following the consultation to Management team
22nd January 2018	Consultation with Staff
1st May 2018	Implementation of the new opening hours

Conclusion

In carrying out a consultation on library opening hours and introducing a model of having library bands for 47 libraries the council will then be able to move forward with a more streamlined, efficient and effective service. At the same time, it will be a more equitable service to communities across the county. There will be an impact on staff in relation to individual working hours which may mean a slight increase or decrease in hours and/or a change to working patterns. The detail of this will follow in the January report to Cabinet and any impact on staff will be managed in line with the established Council employment policies and procedures.