

The Mobile Library Service in Poole

Poole Libraries are reviewing the Mobile Library Service and would welcome your opinion on future services for Poole.

What is the Mobile Library Service?

The Mobile Library Service in Poole provides a public library service in areas where there are no branch libraries, visiting 12 stops in three locations (Bearwood, Merley and Wallisdown) for between 45 and 90 minutes. It also provides a library service to residents living in sheltered housing and residential homes. The current cost of the service is £50,000 per year.

There were 191 customers using the Mobile Library at public stops during August 2013 to July 2014. 26 (14%) of the mobile library users live outside Poole. The Mobile Library also delivered to 154 customers in sheltered housing schemes and residential homes.

Why are we reviewing the service?

- The Government is reducing its funding for Council Services. Spending by the Council has already been reduced by £43 million, we are making good progress but we need to look again at everything we do
- We are looking to be efficient, effective and economical in how we use our resources to provide our services to meet the public demand with maximum benefit for everybody
- The Mobile Library vehicle is reaching the end of its operational life and the Council needs to make a decision about its future replacement

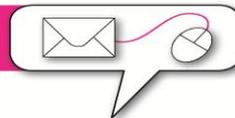
We wish to consult users, and the general public, on the provision of new services that may replace those provided by the Mobile Library and the impact the proposal may have.

What other library services are currently available?

Poole Libraries currently offers the following services:

- Ten branch libraries that are available to everybody and free to use
- A Home Library Service delivered by the Royal Voluntary Service, supports 300 customers who cannot get to a static or mobile library in Poole. This bespoke service delivers books and other resources to customers. This will continue and expand as the needs of users change, and can include those that currently use the Mobile Library
- A downloadable audio book service and an Ebook service both of which are free to use and do not require a visit to either a static or mobile library
- A comprehensive information and reference service available to library members through our web pages boroughofpoole.com/libraries

Have your say ...



What additional services are proposed?

In addition to the services above, we are considering assisting the creation of small community libraries in locations where the mobile library currently stops if there is sufficient demand and interest. These would be set up in venues by residents and volunteers in convenient locations and run by the community for the community, with a supply of books, training, advice and support from Poole Libraries. This has worked well in other areas of the country and we welcome ideas about where these could be run in Poole.

In addition, we have plans to expand our existing service for sheltered housing/residential home customers through the Home Library Service in partnership with the Royal Voluntary Service.

How to have your say

Please take the time to complete the feedback form with this document to give us your views about how you use the service, your thoughts on alternative services and the impact the proposals may have on you. You can:

- give your views online at www.boroughofpoole.com/MobileLibraryConsultation or return your form to us in the freepost envelope provided
- come to an informal drop in session and talk to library managers to find out more about the proposals:

Location	Date	Time
Broadstone Library	Saturday 27 September	10am - 12 midday
Rossmore Library	Wednesday 1 October	10am – 12 midday
Central Library	Saturday 4 October	3 - 5pm

- contact Sue Wills, Library Service Manager by emailing libraries@poole.gov.uk, using 'c/o Sue Wills – Mobile Library Review' as the subject
- see the Committee Report in the Your Council section on www.boroughofpoole.com

The consultation closes on Friday 24 October 2014.

What happens next?

Once the consultation feedback has been analysed, the results will be presented to the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 November 2014, and then to Cabinet on 9 December 2014, with a view to introducing any changes from April 2015.

