



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Haringey Council
Sent via email to: consultation@haringey.gov.uk

Our Ref: BC52385

3 October 2024

Dear Haringey Council Officers,

Re: Haringey Library Services Consultation

I am writing in relation to Haringey Council's 'Haringey Library Services Consultation'. I wish to put forward the following concerns on behalf of constituents of Southgate and Wood Green.

It is understood the impact of long-term austerity and cuts to public spending has resulted in our local governments having to seek budget savings whilst futureproofing services. Whilst reducing service hours to meet a spending cut of £675,000 is a difficult decision and could impact residents negatively, it is welcome that the Council wishes to retain existing library hubs and branches.

Haringey benefits from several community venues, with the libraries offering safe spaces, learning, support, and community for all. I am supportive of library venues growing to welcome more community groups to use the spaces and to bring in cultural events and entertainment. Residents have shared their appreciation of Haringey Libraries having multiple Council services within each building. It is for this reason of safeguarding access to safe spaces that I support reviewing the approach of saving to be one of making the most of our wonderful community spaces.

The consultation proposes two options for consultation that will maintain library services seven days a week. Haringey Council currently operates three main libraries alongside six branch libraries. These libraries form three groups, with each grouping having one large library and two branch libraries. I note Haringey benefits from 525 hours of library opening each week allowing after school and weekend study time, alongside quieter hours for service users to access services and activities throughout the week.

Option one offers 322 hours of library opening each week and focuses on distribution of available hours. I understand if one library is closed, the distance to the closest open library has been calculated to ensure an easily accessible service is maintained Monday-Saturday.

Option two offers 348 hours of library opening each week and focuses on need and provision in response to socio-economic data modelled to provide services to areas of the borough who may require it most, Monday-Sunday.

It is important that residents and stakeholders feed into this first stage of consultation to work with Haringey Council in the second phase of developing a library strategy together. Respondents will note the consultation documents details which activities will be impacted under options 1 and 2. I encourage all residents to feed into this consultation to decide which library model is selected going forward.

Yours sincerely


Bambos Charalambous MP