

Phase 2 Consultation Questionnaire

DRAFT

In the UK, every Council has to provide a “comprehensive and efficient library service” by law. Each Council has to decide how best to provide this service in terms of its physical location; access; and types of services on offer. These services include but are not limited to book loans; computer and Wi-Fi access; heritage and archive material access; activities and events; council advice and support and much more. Some of these services operate from Central Library building on the A6 close to Stockport Town Centre.



Central Library was opened in 1913 and has operated as the Town Centre library since then. The layout of the building was suitable for how people used libraries through much of the 20th Century. However, the way the building is laid out and the investment needed make it a challenge to deliver a comprehensive and efficient library service, fit for the 21st Century, from the building. The Heritage and Archive library is also only on a provisional accreditation and place of deposit status due to the poor state of the storage on the site.

- We are asking people to complete this short questionnaire to understand people's views on the proposed move of library services from the Central Library building, into Stockroom.
- Whatever the result of this formal consultation process there is no intent from the council to demolish or abandon the Central Library building – it is a Grade II listed building and is a much loved and important part of our town's heritage which we want to preserve.
- As such, Stockport Council has agreed some clear pledges for the future of the Central Library Building.
 - **The building will not be abandoned or demolished**
 - **The Council will seek future uses that would be sensitive to the historic nature of the building and would retain public access to the building**
 - **The Council will not sell the freehold or allow the building to be developed for residential use that would mean the public losing access to this heritage asset**





Following the recent public engagement and the positive response to the proposal to include 21st Century library facilities in Stockroom, we now want to consult with people on a proposal to move the Town Centre library services from Central Library into Stockroom.



- Stockport Council has been awarded £14.5 million Future High Streets Funding by the government to spend on Stockroom.
- The rules governing how this money can be spent mean investing the money into refurbishing Central Library is not possible. The money must be spent on supporting the High Street and repurposing vacant retail space.
 - It is important to note that this is a government award which has been given to Stockport Council and this investment will not mean less investment in any of our community library buildings across the borough.
- Thanks to the people who completed a survey on Stockroom in the first phase of engagement. We would now like to consult with all stakeholders to understand the level of support and impact on them if library services currently provided in Central Library relocated into the new Stockroom development in Merseyway. All feedback will be used to inform any decisions made on this proposal.

INSERT SMBC, Northern Powerhouse & MHCLG logos here

We asked people about the type of things they might like to see in four 'Zones' within Stockroom, Discovery Zone, Learning Zone, Community Zone and Family Zone. The plans below show the kind of things that were suggested for those zones.

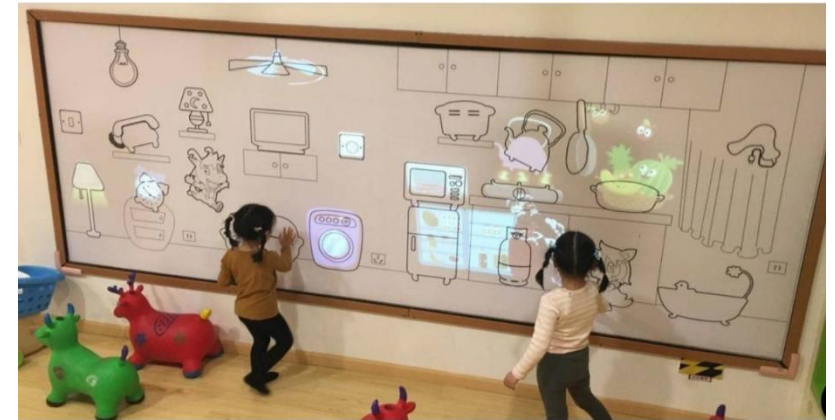


The information above is based on what people told us during the first phase of engagement about what could be included in Stockroom.

- Stockroom will be a centrally located and convenient new arrival point for the town centre, which will breathe new life into empty retail spaces in the heart of Merseyway and bring hundreds of thousands of people to the town centre to better support shops and businesses.
- Stockroom will be larger than a football pitch offering five times the floor space of Stockport's current Central Library
- The building could accommodate more than 20,000 books and provide new spaces for Stockport's historic archive and 21st Century touchscreen learning.
- Stockroom's size and location, in the heart of the high street means it will be able to provide more space, more services, more things to do and longer opening hours.
- Stockroom will be an inclusive space for everyone to use regardless of age or mobility and will provide with brand new 'best in class' toilets with enhanced facilities for people with a disability
- Stockroom will have direct access to over 800 car parking spaces including designated disabled and family spaces.



- Stockroom will be a place to learn, play and relax, providing a new café and meeting point as well as high-quality children's library and research and study spaces for people of all ages to inspire lifelong learning.
- Stockroom will provide better access to digital services and technology and adult learning opportunities to help people to achieve their full potential, allowing them to learn new skills and secure better jobs and good business growth
- It will also be a place for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together and celebrate our heritage.



Stockroom will use a range of technologies to bring every visit to life.



Indicative CGIs of what Stockroom could look like.

- Nationally library visitor numbers have been declining over the past decade.
- Stockport Central library has seen visitor numbers fall by almost half (42%) from April 2012 to March 2020 and it now attracts just over 100,000 visitor a year.
- In addition, loans have fallen 35% among 10 to 14-year-olds between April 2017 and March 2020, while loans have fallen 61% among 15 to 19-year-olds between April 2017 and March 2020.
- But the Council believe Stockroom will be able to attract more people to use the fantastic services our libraries provide.
- Where other local authorities have re-imagined their library services for the 21st Century there has been a substantial uptake in the use of those services.



Chester Storyhouse

- ❑ 800,000 visits to the library, café and community spaces in first year of opening
- ❑ Children's book loans increased by 50%



Ideas Store – Tower Hamlets

- ❑ Increased library visits from 550,000 to 2 million
- ❑ Enrolment in Adult Learning doubled to 8000 per year

Questionnaire

- The questionnaire should not take more than 10 minutes to complete and by taking part you not only have a chance to make your voice heard but you could also win a High Street shopping voucher.
- The questionnaire is available online at www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay and paper copies are available from public libraries across the borough.

Section 1: Current usage of library services

Q1. How often do you ever visit or use Stockport Council's library buildings or use Stockport Council's library services?

SELECT ONE ANSWER ONLY

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every other month
- A few times per year
- Rarely
- Never

Q2. And how often do you use the Central Library building in Stockport?

SELECT ONE ANSWER ONLY IMAGE OF CL BUILDING

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every other month
- A few times per year
- Rarely
- Never

Q3. When do you plan to visit the Central Library building in Stockport next?

SELECT ONE ANSWER ONLY

- Today
- This week
- Next week
- Next month
- At some point after next month
- Never
- Don't know
- Or any Stockport Council library building?



Q4 How often do you use each of the following library services?

- **Book loans – from building**
- **Book loans – online**
- **Computer or wifi access**
- **Heritage and archive materials**
- **Council advice and guidance**
- **Events**
- **Meeting and group activities**
- **Browse a range of periodicals and news publications**
- **Research or Study**

SELECT ONE ANSWER FOR EACH SERVICE

- **Daily**
- **Weekly**
- **Monthly**
- **Every other month**
- **A few times per year**
- **Rarely**
- **Never**



Q5 And to what extent are each of the following library services important to you as a Stockport resident ? Please answer on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being do not value at all and 5 being value strongly

- **Book loans – from building**
- **Book loans – online**
- **Computer or wifi access**
- **Heritage and archive materials**
- **Council advice and guidance**
- **Events**
- **Meeting and group activities**
- **Browse a range of periodicals and news publications**
- **Research or Study**

SELECT ONE ANSWER FOR EACH SERVICE

1 Not at all important

2 Not very important

3 Neither important nor unimportant

4 Slightly important

5 Very important

Don't know / can't say

Q6. Which of the following modes of transport would you typically use to travel to the Central Library building?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- Walking/By foot
- Bicycle
- Car/motorbike
- Public bus/coach service
- Train
- Other (please specify)



- **Q7 . How would you rate the quality of the service provided by the Central Library in each of the following areas...**
- **Variety and availability of books**
- **Public PCs and internet access**
- **Community events and activities**
- **Family and children's activities**
- **Heritage library services (e.g. archives to explore Stockport's or your own family history)**
- **Provision of other information e.g. tourist information or information about council services**

SELECT ONE ANSWER IN EACH ROW

- Very good
- Fairly good
- Fairly poor
- Very poor
- Don't know
- Never used this service prior to the Covid-19 pandemic

Q8. Why do you never use the Stockport Central Library?

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- No interest in library services
- Difficulty getting to the library
- Difficulty accessing the library building
- Opening hours don't suit me
- Not applicable to me
- Not local to me
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know



Section 2: Proposal to move library services

Q9. How far do you agree or disagree with the proposal outlined above to move library services from Central Library to Stockroom?

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q10. Which of the following statements help to explain why you agree with the proposal to move library services from Central Library to Stockroom?

Please add any other reasons for your agreement.

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY

- The new site will provide an improved efficient and comprehensive library service
- The new site will be easier to get to
- The new site will have more reasons to visit
- The new site will offer a stronger sense of community spirit
- Other (please specify)
- Don't know





Q.11 Please explain why you disagree with the proposal to move library services from Central Library to Stockroom?

- **If a decision is taken to move library services from the Central Library as a result of this consultation, the Council would seek alternate uses that are sensitive to the building's historic character, that would retain public access and allow the opportunity for public and community uses.**
- **The building will not be demolished or abandoned.**
- **The Council will not sell the freehold of the Central Library building or allow redevelopment for flats or any residential use.**



Q12. To what extent to you agree or disagree that...

- 1. The Central Library building should not be used for residential development**
- 2. The Central Library building should continue to have public access**

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

Q13. Do you have any suggestions for alternative uses for the Central Library building if the library service is relocated to Stockroom?

- _____
- Don't know
- No suggestion

Q14. Based on the proposal to move library services from Central Library to Stockroom, how often do you think you would visit the new library?

SELECT ONE ANSWER ONLY

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every other month
- A few times per year
- Rarely
- Never



Q15. Do you think any of the following services within the proposed library within Stockroom would encourage you to visit?

- Borrowing books
- Public PCs for internet access and printing
- Community events and activities
- Family and children's activities
- Heritage services (e.g. archives to explore Stockport's or your own family history)
- Provision of other services e.g. tourist information or information about council services
- Exhibitions from the Museum or Art Gallery
- A café
- Advice and Support services
- A place to meet and relax in the heart of the High Street

SELECT ALL THAT APPLY ON EACH ROW

- On my own
- With my children or grandchildren
- With adult family members
- With friends
- I wouldn't visit for this reason
- Don't know

Q 16. Do you have any other comments about the proposal to move services from Central Library to Stockroom?

- No other comments

Q17. Are you responding as...

- A resident of Stockport
- On behalf of a voluntary or community group
- A local business owner
- A public sector organisation
- A Councillor or MP
- Other (please specify)

Demographic questions and end.

