

Libraries & Museums Service Review 2021

Public consultation – background information

Please visit the [Active consultations](#) page of Bolton Council's website to take part in the consultation and view further information. Paper copies are also available from library staff.

Bolton Council operates ten libraries, three museums, an aquarium and History Centre where people can access the libraries and museums archive.

We also support a number of Neighbourhood Collection sites run by our partners, where people can choose from a small selection of books, collect books they have reserved from other libraries and use public computers.

Whilst we are **not proposing to close any libraries or museums**, the service does need to make savings of around £430,000 in response to reduced council budgets.

We have developed a proposal to make savings by **reducing the opening hours for libraries and the History Centre**, as well as reduce the **support for Neighbourhood Collection sites**. The savings would be achieved by reducing utilities [heating, lighting etc] and reduced staffing costs.

The proposed opening hours have been suggested after looking carefully at when our libraries and museums are most used and reducing opening hours when there is little demand from the public.

We are inviting the public to take part in our consultation. This is your chance to comment on the changes we have put forward, and to suggest alternative ways in which the service can save money whilst still providing a service, which we recognise is much-loved by many.

Legal background

Under the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act the council is obliged to provide a 'comprehensive and efficient service' for all individuals who live, work or study within the borough and who are 'desirous' of using the service. There is no set definition of what a comprehensive and efficient service looks like.

Bolton Council aims to provide access to the library service for all residents by operating ten libraries across the borough. We also provide a Home Library Service for residents who are unable to visit a library due to health or mobility issues, together with digital library services where people can borrow electronic books, e-magazines and audio

books, along with access to electronic encyclopaedias and Ancestry for family history research.

The proposals

- There would be no changes to the digital library or Home Library Service.
- No changes to opening hours for the main museums or the aquarium.
- The History Centre would no longer open on Sunday
- Changes are proposed in the opening hours for the libraries; this would mean that they are open for less hours. However, each library will still be open for a minimum of three days a week, and open for at least one evening and weekend each week.
- Support would be reduced for the Neighbourhood Collection sites.

Reduced support for Neighbourhood Collection sites

Neighbourhood Collections are community facilities run by our partners, such as Bolton at Home, in areas which do not have a branch library.

They have a small selection of library books which can be borrowed and provide computer facilities which can be used free of charge by the public. Locals can order books from any of our libraries and collect them at a Neighbourhood Collection site. The sites are partly staffed by the Libraries & Museums Service.

There are Neighbourhood Collection sites at:

- Halliwell UCAN
- New Hall Lane, Heaton
- Oldham's Children Centre, Astley Bridge
- Tonge UCAN

These Neighbourhood Collection sites are little used, and we **propose to withdraw the book stock from these sites and stop providing staff**. The sites will still be staffed by our partners who will have access to information, advice and support from the Libraries & Museums service when needed.

We will still provide free public access to computers on a self-service basis, and 'Click and Collect' book loans. This means that the public will still be able to use the computers and can order books from our library system to collect at their Neighbourhood Collection site.

Proposed opening hours for libraries and museums

History Centre		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm
Thursday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am-4.00pm	Closed

Libraries

Blackrod Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday	Closed	Closed
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-7.00pm
Friday	Closed	Closed
Saturday	9.00am-12.30pm	10.00am-1.00pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Brightmet Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-12.30pm	10.00am-1.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-7.00pm	10am-7.00pm
Wednesday	9.00am-12.30pm	10.00am-1.00pm
Thursday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-1.00pm	10.00am-1.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	10.00am-1.00pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Bromley Cross Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	1.00-5.30pm	1.00-5.30pm
Tuesday	2.00-7.00pm	2.00-7.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday	Closed	Closed
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	10.00am-1.00pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Central Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	8.15am-7.30pm	9.00am-7.30pm
Tuesday	8.15am-7.30pm	9.00am-7.30pm
Wednesday	9.30am-5.30pm	9.30am-5.30pm
Thursday	8.15am-7.30pm	9.00am-7.30pm
Friday	8.15am-5.30pm	9.00am-5.30pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am-4.00pm	10am-4pm

Farnworth Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-5.30pm	10am-5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-7.00pm	10am-7.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Harwood Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-5.30pm	Closed
Tuesday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-7.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am-4.00pm	Closed

High Street Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday	12.30pm-5.30pm	1.00-7.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday	Closed	Closed
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am-4.00pm	Closed

Horwich Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-7.00pm
Wednesday	1.00-5.30pm	Closed
Thursday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Saturday	10.00am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Little Lever Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-7.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Westhoughton Library		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am – 5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-7.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	10.00am-7.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.30pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Museums

Aquarium – for information - no change to opening hours		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm
Thursday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am-4.00pm	10.00am-4.00pm

Central Museum – for information - no change to opening hours		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm
Thursday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Friday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday	9.00am-5.00pm	9.00am-5.00pm
Sunday	10.00am-4.00pm	10.00am-4.00pm

Hall i'th' Wood Museum – for information - no change to opening hours		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	Closed	Closed
Tuesday	10.00am-4.00pm	10.00am-4.00pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	Closed	Closed
Friday	Closed	Closed
Saturday	10.00am-4.00pm	10.00am-4.00pm
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Smithills Hall Museum – for information - no change to opening hours		
Day	Current	Proposed
Monday	Closed	Closed
Tuesday	Closed	Closed
Wednesday	10.00am-4.00pm	10.00am-4.00pm
Thursday	10.00am-4.00pm	10.00am-4.00pm
Friday	10.00am-4.00pm	10.00am-4.00pm
Saturday	Closed	Closed
Sunday	12.00pm-4.00pm	12.00pm-4.00pm