

Let's talk about co-location.

Before this council rushes into a terrible mistake you should all know council officers have not done their homework.

They have not collected user data in the library or the one stop shop.

They have not looked at other co-located sites around the country

They don't have an operational plan, design or impact analysis to back up their proposals

They have not done any proper research on whether or not a library co-located with a One Stop Shop will work for or benefit the people of Bath.

But you're poised to spend millions.

And council officers have not done their homework

Luckily, we have.

Save Bath Libraries have been talking to experts and library users and looking at hundreds of examples of co-location.

We've found that the most important ingredients in successful co-locations are:

- a clear understanding of user needs as a starting point
- a wide range of models narrowed down with the help of experts and librarians
- evidence the space is sufficient
- a detailed operational plan
- an impact analysis for each individual service.
- a meaningful consultation with residents about whether or not integration is favoured.

Not **one** of these ingredients for a successful co-location is to be found in the council's consultation documents.

No user study

No operation plan

No impact analysis

No evidence that successful sites were visited or contacted.

Council has no idea if co-location in Bath will work.

The only evidence they offer is threadbare, and it is this:

“It works in Keynsham, therefore it will work in Bath”.

In fact it *does* work in Keynsham. There we have an award-winning, purpose built and spacious design with more books, a fantastic event space and an environment people enjoy using.

But that is not what the council are proposing.

In contrast to Keynsham, Lewis House would have

- half the library space
- no stockroom
- no event room
- no large study space
- no safe large children’s area

and council’s own commissioned accessibility report raises significant concerns about Lewis House as a site for a library.

Keynsham is not the same of Bath and no amount of wishful thinking will make it so. For one, Bath gets TEN TIMES the daily visitors Keynsham does.

Librarians, architects, property professionals, chartered surveyors all agree what is being proposed - in both Lewis House and The Podium - is set for disaster.

Officers must produce the evidence to prove them wrong - or find a bigger site.

If this Council rushes to co-locate library and council services in Bath without performing due diligence they risk burning through millions of tax payers' funds with no hope of success. Again.

The last thing residents want to see is millions MORE wasted on disastrous plans.

The backlash from residents will be overwhelming.

Bath deserves better than this.