

Good evening everyone. The department for Culture, Media and Sport's library task force have created a set of guidelines for Council's considering library changes. This document is supported by both central government, and the LGA, but so far B&NES Council have failed to meet **any** of the recommendations contained within it.

Councils should develop library services using 7 common design principles so they:

1. meet legal requirements
2. are shaped by **local** needs
3. focus on **public benefit** and deliver **a high-quality** user experience
4. make **decisions informed by evidence**, building on success
5. support delivery of consistent England-wide core offers
6. promote **partnership working**, innovation and enterprise
7. **use public funds effectively and efficiently**

- The current proposals represent a **significant reduction** to library services in **a pre-determined** integrated service format. No **lawful consultation** has been carried out.
- No user study has been carried out to ensure that services are **shaped by user need**. Instead Council Director Ian Savigar confirmed in August that user needs are not a factor in making the decision. Residents can have a say in the design, **after** the decision has been made.
- The focus is on helping the council achieve ad hoc efficiency savings arising from an overstuffed One Stop Shop, and the council's stated desire for bigger office space.
- The user experience will be lessened eg unqualified staff, up to half the space, no event room, cramped floor space and Lewis House, a building which falls well short of 21st Century design, safety & accessibility standards
- There is nothing to support the delivery of core offers
- Partners do not seem to have been consulted. The solution of co-location is way behind the best innovative solutions and enterprise Betsi will be talking about tonight.
- Wasting public funds. This is a **massive gamble** of up to £6.4m for spurious savings of up to £800k which the council have admitted **are merely a target** rather than a deliverable plan.
- There is **no evidence** other than wild claims about Keynsham providing co-location will work in Bath, when in fact Keynsham was all about improving the space, size, event room, and book-stock. Keynsham library is also tiny. Just 3k visits per month compared to Bath's 500,000 per year. What works in Keynsham **might** be applicable to Midsomer Norton but **not** Bath Central Library. We know of no example of a successful co-location where a busy city library has been halved and downgraded. Ian Savigar didn't know of one either. **We need council to make evidence-based decisions.**