



School Library Service Consultation

Background Information:

Shropshire Council are exploring options to secure a sustainable financial future for the Schools Library Service (SLS). The Schools Library Service is a traded service with schools and has been operating at a loss for the last two financial years.

We are encouraging all schools to share their views on all options that they believe would enable the Schools Library Service to secure a sustainable financial future, including the level of price increase that would be financially viable for schools, whether additional schools are willing to subscribe to the service and any other options that could be considered to increase income and/or reduce operating costs.

It is anticipated that based on the operating costs for the Schools Library Service whilst the service remains at Shirehall, an increase in income of around 40% will be necessary to bring the service to a 'break even' point. If the service moves to alternative accommodation a further additional increase is very likely to be required.

Considering the financial challenges faced by Shropshire Council, we cannot continue to subsidise a non-mandatory traded service, but we will ensure that all possible options to continue the service are explored and we welcome all possible solutions.

The consultation feedback we receive will be presented to a future Cabinet meeting, detailing the options available and a suggested way forward.

Your feedback is important to us, so thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this survey.

Please note: this survey is designed to be completed by schools, with one survey response per school.

If you are a member of school staff or other interested party, please send your feedback via the alternative survey, available on the Shropshire Council [Get Involved page](#).

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* Name of school (please select from the dropdown list)

* Your Job Title

* Your Name

* Your Contact Email

* What local authority does your school come under?

- Shropshire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Staffordshire
- Worcestershire
- Welsh authority (e.g. Powys)
- Other (please specify)

* Does your school currently subscribe to the School Library Service?

- Yes, 3 year contract
- Yes, annual contract
- No



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* You have said that you're not currently subscribed to the School Library Service - would you be interested in subscribing in the future?

Yes

No

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* You have said that your school does not currently subscribe to the Shropshire Library Service, but might consider doing so in the future. What might make you more likely to subscribe to the service? (Please tick all that apply)

- We don't want to lose access to a local service
- More online resources
- Our school being able to allocate more funding to library resources
- Expansion of one or more of the currently offered services
- Other (please specify)

- None of the above

Please tell us any more that you would like to about your answer.

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* You have said that you're not currently subscribed to the School Library Service and that you would not be interested in subscribing in the future. Can you tell us why you are not interested in subscribing? (Please tick all that apply)

- Our library budget is not enough to afford the service
- We don't have any space for libraries in our school
- We can meet our library needs in other ways
- The service as currently provided does not meet our needs
- Other (please specify)

- None of the above

Please tell us any more that you would like to about your answer.

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* Please rank the reasons your school subscribes to the School Library Service in order of importance, with 1 (top) being the most important reason and 11 (bottom) being the least important.

- Topic loans
- Artefact loans
- Reading set loans
- Bulk loan of fiction for the school library to enhance choice
- Door to door delivery and collection service
- Professional advice and support
- Access to cost-effective online e-resources
- Advice on library refurbishment, resources and policy development
- Assessment of stock and advice on book purchase
- Training of school library staff and pupil librarians
- Promoting schools reading for pleasure strategy

Is there another reason your school subscribes to the School Library Service?

Is there anything in our current services that could be improved?

Can you suggest any alternative ways of bundling our services and costs to create a different pricing structure that your school might be interested in (to help secure the future viability of the service)?

* Would your school be prepared to pay an increase to the cost of the School Library Service to secure the viability of the service?

- Yes, we are willing/able to pay up to 10% more
- Yes, we are willing/able to pay up to 20% more
- Yes, we are willing/able to pay up to 30% more
- Yes, we are willing/able to pay the full 40% more needed to keep the service viable
- No (We would not subscribe if prices increased)
- Other (please specify)

* When would your school be prepared for the increased charges to commence to secure the viability of the service?

- April 2024
- Sept 2024
- Jan 2025
- April 2025
- Other (please specify)

- None of the above

* At some point in the future, the service may need to move to new premises which may add a further significant cost pressure. Would your school be prepared to support a further price increase (beyond the current anticipated 40%) to ensure the viability of the service at this later stage?

- Yes
- No (We would not subscribe if prices increased beyond 40%)

* Would your school be prepared to consider collecting items from your local Public Library if this helped to manage the cost of the School Library Service and secure the viability of the service?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

* Would your school be prepared to accommodate the School Library Service, or part of the service, if this helped to manage the costs and secure the viability of the service?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

Please tell us what the impacts would be on your school of either continuing your subscription at increased cost or ending your subscription.



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Do you have any alternative suggestions for how the service could be run or costs reduced to make the service more viable?

Are there any other comments you wish to add?



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How we will use the information you have provided

The information you have provided will be used by Shropshire Council to influence the work of the School Library Service. We will only publish anonymised responses, parts of responses, or a summarized version of responses and will ensure individual survey respondents cannot be identified. Your response will be stored and kept in line with Shropshire Council's Retention Schedule.

The survey results will be shared with other services within Shropshire Council and anonymised data may be shared with services commissioned by Shropshire Council.

We will not share your data with any external third parties. A summary report will be developed and made available. Your information will be held securely, only shared internally where necessary. We comply with data protection laws concerning the protection of personal information, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information on how information is held by Shropshire Council and your rights to gain access to the information we hold on you please see our corporate privacy policy at www.shropshire.gov.uk/privacy

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey

* By submitting this survey, I understand that I give my permission for the collection and processing of the information I provide within this survey form (this is particularly important if you have provided your contact details above).

- Yes
- No (please remove my responses)