

**Report xxx-24 ANGUSalive-Library-ACCESS-Hunter Consultation Outcome**

**APPENDIX 1**

The Consultation sought the public's views on the design proposals to: -

- improve the delivery of face-to-face library and ACCESS services at Arbroath Library
- improve the storage and public access to the council's archives.

A summary of the proposed changes and more detailed documents were provided at: - <https://engage.angus.gov.uk/angus-alive-investment-proposal-arbroath-library>

Consultation Responses	Received via	Date Received	Comments
<b>Suggested Alterations</b>			
I think it's fantastic arbroath could house the archives. There is more public transport to arbroath from the rest of Angus it was always difficult to get to restenneth. The Arbroath library is already equipped with more up to date mobility access. There is plenty of space upstairs in arbroath library which is currently under utilised. The only thing I would like to see considered on the plans is a study area of some sort for students who do not have a safe or quiet space at home to study. I think this is something the council should provide for citizens. It doesn't have to be a large space.	Engage Angus	19/06/2024	Study space could be incorporated, some spaces will be mutli-functional achieving the best and full use of the spaces available. Research and study space will be created upstairs as part of the work and are also planned to be incorporated into the Learning Centre.
Please find attached a different plan layout for the ground floor of the Public Library in Arbroath. You may think this is presumptuous on my part but I have done layouts and plans for a very large business company for over 20 years. I have been a member of this library for over 70 years and my family before me; in fact we really go back to when it opened its doors as a library. In that time, the library has seen many changes but it has always been first and foremost a library. With the new plan, you have altered the presence of the library into a "bit of this and a bit of that". I can understand that, if the footfall has fallen, you take advantage of putting other facilities within its walls but to reduce the space of the lending of books surely should be encouraged in different ways; book nights, book clubs etc. We are failing the public if the future of this facility fails to do its bit. Personally, I have no disagreement to the Access being in the library but to lose the entire non-fiction space for Access does seem over the top. From the public's point of view, it would seem resonable to being invited in to a quiet and uninterrupted office rather than an open space where likely to be overheard. As a child, I loved the childrens library which was well used and much smaller an area than it is now. Your action of sing-song on a Monday disappoints. Surely you cannot give in to the idea that this will encourage children in their future years to attend a library simply because someone bounced them on a knee when they were small. My drawing shows the adult fiction moving to the childrens area and the childrens library moving to where the present adult library resides; the Learning Centre moving to beside the childrens library with Macmillan remaining. If desired and a wish not to be overheard, surely the Macmillan client can be redirected to a private interview space which has been attached alongside the learning centre area. The Access area moves to the Learning Centre area and the non-fiction books area remains. The so called Learning zone shop I have some doubt as to what it plans to achieve. However, I do see the sense of the facility of that area including the reference books joining the archive section on the next floor. My last comment is that perhaps, being a widespread area which seems to be supported by one or two members of staff, surely that is not enough to cover such diverse activities plus toilet, lunch and tea breaks. I hope these suggestions are helpful and that it is accepted in the manner it is given, that being the library has a place and it remains centre stage in our society.	Arbroath Library	31/07/2024	The redesign of the spaces is taking in all the services that are being offered at the Library/Archive with the design utilising the best use for each space.
<b>Positive Feedback</b>			
All good sensible proposals.	Engage Angus	19/06/2024	Positive endorsement of proposals
I think moving the archives to Arbroath would be great. Where Angus archives is currently located could be quite hard to reach if you don't drive	Engage Angus	19/06/2024	Positive endorsement of proposals
Proposed changes are fine and seem good for the library — unsure if it's ever happened yet, but updating any technology and available books would also be good.	Engage Angus	21/06/2024	Positive endorsement of proposals
Great team at the learning room upstairs very helpful well worth a pay rise	Facebook	23/06/2024	Positive endorsement although not directly related to proposals.
I think it would be a good thing to have the archives moved to Arbroath they would be easily accessed by anyone in Angus as bus services are available from every town and village. At the moment you need to be able to have a car.	Engage Angus	03/07/2024	Positive endorsement of proposals
By improving the access of the council archives from Forfar to Arbroath will be a great asset to Arbroath people and I'm sure will be well used	Comment Form	05/07/2024	Positive endorsement of proposals
I think having the archives in Arbroath is a great idea.	Engage Angus	08/07/2024	Positive endorsement of proposals

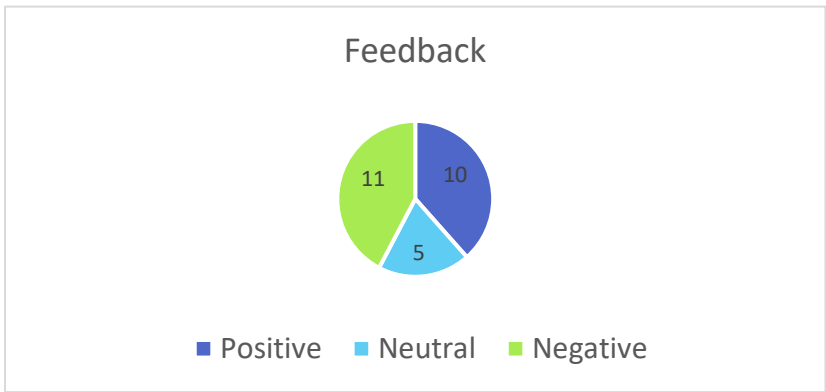
Consultation Responses	Received via	Date Received	Comments
This is an excellent proposal. The archives at Restennth Priory are difficult to get to if you don't drive. This will make them much more accessible.	Engage Angus	25/07/2024	Positive endorsement of proposals
Excellent idea - the upstairs gallery is underused. Has there been any thoughts about temp relocation space - the refurbished Arbroath Vourt house is watertight and could be available and is reasonably close to existing library?	Engage Angus	27/07/2024	Positive endorsement of porposals. As regards the suggestion that the nearby refurbished old Court House could be used for decant, this is not a Council property and this would not be straight-forward and would likely have an additonal cost implication.

Consultation Responses	Received via	Date Received	Comments
<b>General Feedback</b>			
I am not opposed to the move from Restenneth to Arbroath. I live in a wee village not far from forfar and we have fairly regular busses coming through to Arbroath from Forfar. Busses are more accessible than a car, which you do currently need to get to the current location at Hunter Library. I am sympathetic to more out of the way regions, like those living in the Angus Glen having to travel further, which is why i'm leaning towards keeping the local history books in their respective libraries, with the option to have some of the more rare items from archives delivered, i don't think that is a bad idea, as surely archives already have copies of some of these local history books? Im am spoiled by university online archives that i have access too as a historian and researcher and i think maybe a future goal could be to streamline AngusAlives Digital records, so some of them can be accessed from home. I work in the heritage sector and did my masters on it, i know we are suffering across the whole of the Scotland and beyond, so i understand the need to move to a more viable location if it means Angus has a cultural and historical sector that provides jobs and training and it's not all volunteer ran. i would hate for all the skilled labour within libraries and other similar institutions to go to the big cities, i think that will be a loss to angus and the already loss of skilled labour from the rural to the cities.	Engage Angus	26/07/2024	Positive comments regarding better access. An element of the local history collections will remain in each library across Angus with Arbroath Library becoming a central hub. The process whereby members of the public can ask for resources to be delivered to their local library would continue. Comments are noted regarding the industry as a whole although not directly relevant to the consultation proposals.
<b>Weddings</b>			
I think it would be a real shame if weddings can no longer take place in the library. It is a beautiful wedding venue	Engage Angus	03/07/2024	It has been confirmed that after review, with the Learning Shop now relocating to the ground floor, weddings can continue to be held in the Corsar Gallery.
<b>Opening Hours</b>			
Would the opening hours be changed for Arbroath Library? Right now its like it's only open for 3 minutes and 27 seconds every third full moon but only if Venus is in Pluto and it's not a bank holiday!	Engage Angus	03/07/2024	New opening hours were introduced in May 2023 and these are under constant review, and at present Arbroath Library is open 6 days a week, 6hrs per day Mon-Fri, and 3hrs on a Sat. This is compared to The Hunter Library which is only open Thurs - Sat (6hrs a day) and Tues / Wed by appointment only.
1. The 'proposed changes' page says, 'most, not all, local history resources'... But Report 172/24 at 4.5 states 'complete colocation'. Some, not all, isn't complete colocation 2. At 4.2 Report 172/24 states ' support the different needs of our customers' At the moment the Restenneth facility is open for longer hours than Arbroath Library. To support customers of the archives, the Library needs to be open the same hours as present at Restenneth. Please confirm this is so - there is no mention of it in 172/24.	Engage Angus	16/07/2024	A complete relocation out of the Hunter Library is proposed as the Council proposes to relinquish its lease of the building. Whilst the curent opening times at Restenneth are slightly different from those at Arbroath Library, opening times are constantly under review to ensure these remain appropriate in terms of the provision of public services. At present Arbroath Library is open 6 days a week, 6hrs a day Mon-Fri, and 3hrs on a Sat. Whereas The Hunter Library is only open Thurs - Sat (6hrs a day) and Tues / Wed by appointment only.
<b>Staffing</b>			
Please ensure sufficient staffing levels, at all times, to accommodate all 3 departments.	Comment Form	29/06/2024	This is monitored to ensure adherence to the agreed level within the Angus Alive service specification agreed by the Council. Inadequate levels of staffing would be highlighted through poor service delivery and rectified as part of this process.
<b>Local History Archives</b>			
Removing all Local History collections from the individual libraries is a disservice to our very loyal customers. Daily there are customers who come in to read old newspapers and look through photos held in books from our Local History collection. Yes, they could order these items and wait for them to be delivered but why put more pressure on our already over worked delivery person and his tiny van that is not fit for purpose? Why force our customers to wait a week and often longer for each item? That is not good service; it is poor planning. Also, please 1. ask the current Arbroath and Archives staff about the furniture needs since they know best what will work and why, and 2. consider the building design when purchasing furnishings. Modern furnishings in a modern building looks good (think Carnoustie Library) modern furnishings in a traditional building looks garish and creates an uncomfortable environment for both employees and customers (think Montrose Library).	Engage Angus	18/06/2024	Local History space has been provided as required for the current collection held at Arbroath Library. An element of the local history collection will remain in each library across Angus with Arbroath Library becoming a central hub.The process whereby members of the public can ask for resources to be delivered to their local library would continue. Staff will be fully consulted with regards any design changes / furniture etc and their feedback sought and taken into account.

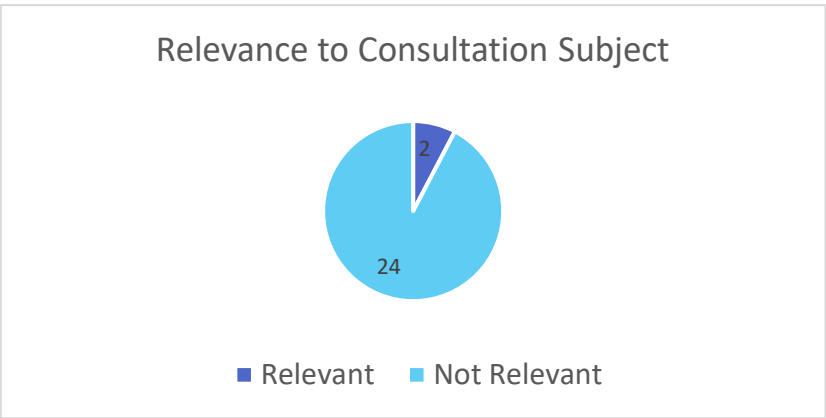
Consultation Responses	Received via	Date Received	Comments
I don't agree with the local history collections of each library going to Arbroath Library. Some of these were bequests, intended to be used at their respective libraries. Why can't they be held in their intended library...they are just as much part of the library as the fiction books or reference books. I wouldn't expect to travel to Arbroath to view Forfar material and it puts a strain on the delivery driver/van. Keep each town's collection in the rightful town...not centralised. Its bad enough we are losing town museums without this too, soon there will be only 1 library/museum for us all!	Engage Angus	19/06/2024	An element of the local history collection will remain in each library across Angus with Arbroath Library becoming a central hub. The process whereby members of the public can ask for resources to be delivered to their local library would continue.
Local archives should remain in the local libraries and not be moved to Arbroath. Less Local people will be able to access and many may be unable to travel not only due to the costs but the lack of reliable public transport. Leave these Local. Archives from Restenneth would be more easily accessed by the public at Arbroath library however it would be beneficial if the catalogue was digital and could be borrowed to Local libraries for those who couldn't travel.	Engage Angus	22/06/2024	An element of the local history collection will remain in each library across Angus with Arbroath Library becoming a central hub. The process whereby members of the public can ask for resources to be delivered to their local library would continue.  Digitisation work is being undertaken currently
I am totally against the Archives being moved from Restenneth to Arbroath. A History group in Tannadice have given many important items to Hunter library and I know that many people from Kirriemuir and the Glens will not come all the way to Arbroath to peruse them. Forfar is the County Town and the Archives should stay in Restenneth. Definitely viable.	Engage Angus	25/07/2024	An element of the local history collection will remain in each library across Angus with Arbroath Library becoming a central hub. The process whereby members of the public can ask for resources to be delivered to their local library would continue. Arbroath Library has better transport links for everyone, compared to Hunter Library in Restenneth which has now come to the end of its lease.
What a ridiculous proposal to relocate the archive materials to Arbroath Library. Arbroath Library is not readily accessible fir the majority of Angus residents. As a local historian I think this is a deliberate snub to the folk frae the braes o Angus.	Engage Angus	03/07/2024	An element of the local history collection will remain in each library across Angus with Arbroath Library becoming a central hub. The process whereby members of the public can ask for resources to be delivered to their local library would continue. Arbroath Library has better transport links for everyone, compared to Hunter Library in Restenneth which has now come to the end of its lease.
Alternative Site Suggestions			
Bearing in mind there is going to be a cost of circa £250K to implement this, why not use the Saltire Centre (as previously considered) instead where I suspect the cost of implementation would be less. It is equally accessible. How accessible was the Hunter Library at Restenneth? Why the need for further costly change at Arbroath Library??	Engage Angus	19/06/2024	Arbroath Library works had already been agreed and building options were considered. A permanent move to Saltire would require considerable investment and result in a loss of activity space which could also impact the existing relationship with Dundee and Angus College.  The main costs for the Archives relates to relocation costs.  The access issues relate not to the building but to getting there, there is no pedestrian routes leading to Hunter Library and no public transport links, the only real option is to take your own transport.
Why has serious consideration been given to utilising Edzell Inglis Memorial Hall as an archive base. It is a wonderful historic building with it's own library and cultural area and the main hall area could be used to house all the historic items form over Angus. It has been handed back form Angus Alive to the Council so better to use that sit with sporadic use but still requiring maintenance and running costs.	Engage Angus	20/06/2024	A number of options regarding Inglis Hall were considered by ANGUSalve prior to this site being relinquished back to the Council last year. The building is currently subject to ongoing investigations relating to continuing its operation within the community - with a view to returning it to active public use in the future. Angus Council are looking to reduce its estate, hence movement to an existing operational building. Restenneth lease expires at end Feb 2025.
I have looked at the plans read about it in the Courier and feel that if the Access Office goes to Saltire, even temporarily, ok if you have a car ok but how do folk without access it as phone calls can take a long time. Surely there would be somewhere else suitable the Council are always saying there is no money? Angus Alive seem to be moving and selling off important spaces, Arbroath the biggest town in Angus seems to be the bottom of the list for many great historical items.	Comment Form	25/06/2024	The Saltire Centre is within the town with public transport links. The proposed move is only temporary whilst Arbroath Library works are undertaken as quickly as possible.
Financial Concerns			

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I have studied the designs and the proposals and while they are very good I have serious reservations as to the validity and the reasons and other costs. I feel where the archives are located the rental sum is not to costly. However to spend the amount to upgrade relocate library services in these financial times are ??? the climate of cost of living crisis, waste of public money!! Where the library services are going how much space is there? What about access (elderly people)? Bus services not to reliable not all have cars or access to some taxis costly. All in all not in favour find the cost of all this outways the benefit. ??? the access to the archives very much easier is a big plus the only one but is there no viable alternative & has it ever been looked at.	Comment Form	25/06/2024	Building costs have previously been agreed and in the main do not relate to relocation of the Archives. The savings only relate to rental, no account is given to potential future maintenance costs of the Hunter Library. All existing Council buildings were considered as part of an earlier exercise.
To spend £290k to save £10k Pa running costs at Restenneth does not seem prudent. To move local history from local libraries to Arbroath is a retrograde step. Anyone going research on local history needs to browse the references available on the library shelves , not as suggested in the proposal, order a book to be sent from Arbroath. Why not be more honest and call it Arbroath Archives instead.? Another nail in the coffin for local libraries from the dead hands of Angus Alive senior management and Directors	Engage Angus	30/07/2024	An element of the local history collection will remain in each library across Angus with Arbroath Library becoming a central hub. The process whereby members of the public can ask for resources to be delivered to their local library would continue. Arbroath Library has better transport links for everyone, compared to Hunter Library in Restenneth which has now come to the end of its lease.

Positive	10
Neutral	5
Negative	11



Relevant	2
Not Relevant	24



Suggested Alterations	2
General Positive Feedback	9
General Neutral Feedback	1
Weddings	1
Opening Hours	2
Staffing	1
Local History Archives	5
Alternative Site Suggestions	3
Financial Concerns	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

