The way people use libraries is changing. People used to rely on their local library to access books or information. Today they have a range of options, like electronic books or the Internet for example. At the same time Councils everywhere are having to make major savings because of Government cuts in funding.

It is not unusual these days to find a number of Council services provided from libraries, alongside more traditional library services. We need to make the best possible use of our buildings. Providing a range of services out of Council buildings like libraries is one way of doing that.

We estimate we need to save £39 million over the next three years to 2019. We also want to create a modern and fit-for-purpose library service, well-used by local residents because it provides the services they want.

**Phase 1:**
We want to hear from as many residents as possible to find out how they are using the library service in Reading. That includes how often people are using library services and which libraries they are using. We also want to know if residents have any ideas about how library services could be delivered more effectively and efficiently.

The answers to these important questions will provide the Council with the information it needs to help develop proposals for library services in Reading. These proposals will be developed through the Winter before Phase 2 begins.

**Phase 2:**
This is the opportunity for residents to have their say on the proposals the Council has come forward with as a result of residents’ responses and reviewing the service. This second round of public consultation will take place in Spring 2016. All responses and feedback will then be considered before final decisions in Summer 2016.

Please see the reverse of this leaflet for more details, and how to take part and have your say.
Library Services in Reading

Library Services are delivered from seven locations in Reading.

- Battle Library
- Caversham Library
- Central Library
- Palmer Park Library
- Southcote Library
- Tilehurst Library
- Whitley Library

We have already made major savings within the service since 2010 by making the library network more efficient. We have also made better use of technology, like introducing ebooks and providing an online library catalogue. We recently co-located a range of learning and community services into Central Library. Making the best possible use of our buildings in this way may also be possible at other libraries or other Council buildings.

We are required by the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act to provide a ‘comprehensive and efficient’ library service for all individuals who live, work or study within the Borough. The size of the funding cuts the Council is now facing however means that we cannot continue to deliver the library service the way we have in the past.

We want to create a more modern service which meets needs now and in the future.

Have Your Say

We are now in Phase 1 of the Library Review. To have your say, please go to www.reading.gov.uk/libraryreview and complete the questionnaire. You will also find links to documents containing background information about the libraries.

Hard copies of the questionnaire, and the background information, are also available at council buildings, including libraries, leisure centres, children’s centres and the Civic Offices.

If you prefer to write in with your comments you can do so by emailing libraryreview@reading.gov.uk

Alternatively you can write to:
Library Review
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices
Bridge Street
Reading
RG1 2LU

This consultation runs until 10am on November 23rd.

If you would like to be added to our email mailing list to be kept up to date with future budget proposals and consultations, and council news, you can register your details when you submit your comments to this consultation.