**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Why is this being launched now?**

As you may be aware, we began Phase One of the public consultations on our Libraries and Archive Service review last year. We now have all the responses from that consultation and, based on those responses, data analysis and needs assessment, the Council is now ready to go out for consultation on Phase Two. In December 2024, the council’s cabinet gave the go-ahead for this consultation to go ahead.

 **What are we consulting on and who will be consulted?**

Phase Two of the consultations will look at how we need to develop, and potentially change, elements of our archives and libraries based on the options and the themes there was broad agreement on when the results of Phase One consultation were analysed.

 **Why are you consulting the public on this?**

We want to understand more about what people think are the best options for the possible co-location and operation of the libraries and archive service going forward.

**Why is this needed?**

There has been a 43% decline in physical visits to library branches since 2018-19, and a trend towards greater use of online services. While visits have slightly recovered post-Covid they remain significantly lower than before the pandemic. All councils across the UK are experiencing financial pressures and NELC must invest carefully in services to get the best value for money for our residents. That is why we need to ensure the services provided are modern, efficient, and fit for purpose for years to come.

**What will happen to the results?**

Phase Two of the consultation will look at how we need to develop, and potentially change, elements of our archives (history collection) and libraries. This is currently outlined in the options for Phase Two public consultation and engagement. The results will then be fully considered and assessed by the council before any decisions are made.

**What are the public consultation dates?**

The aim is to complete Phase Two of public consultation and engagement across a 12-week period beginning on April 16, 2025 and ending on July 9 2025. Pop-up events are also planned: Immingham Civic Centre (foyer), Pelham Road – Wednesday 07 May, 2 to 5pm; Freeman Street Market, Freeman Street – Friday 09 May, 10 to 1pm; Cleethorpes Leisure Centre (foyer), Kingsway Road - Monday 19 May, 4 to 7pm;  Grimsby Town Hall, Bremerhaven Room, Town Hall Square – Monday 02 June, 2 to 5pm; Waltham Parish Council Office, Kirkgate Car Park -  Wednesday 18 June, 10 to 12pm and 6 to 7pm. These will support people in completing the consultation.

**Will there be library location changes?**

Libraries are in key locations within the borough and aim to be accessible. We don’t know at this stage if the findings and recommendations from the review will include any definitive changes. However, options for alternative sites have been brought forward for consideration in Phase Two of the public consultation. These are options the council wishes to seek peoples’ views on as it looks to create a sustainable and growing library service for the future. Nothing can move forward until the consultation is complete and full assessments made. The present temporary closure of the Grimsby Central Library building has no bearing on, or relation to, the consultation. That is a separate issue with the temporary closure due to the risk of asbestos disturbance after rainfall caused a water leak.

 To complete the consultation go to [Have your say | NELC](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/your-council/data-feedback-and-engagement/have-your-say/#take-part-in-live-consultations)