

## Appendix D: Response to the Consultation -Analysis of the Alternative Proposals Put Forward

Alternative idea	Comment
Leave service as it is /find savings elsewhere/remain KCC run/maintain status quo	The status quo is not an option even if the service continues to be delivered by KCC. In the current economic climate financial savings have to be made across all of KCC and all services must contribute to achieving the savings required. Library, Registration and Archive services must contribute the 1.92m identified as part of KCC's medium term financial plan whatever option is decided now. In order to achieve these savings service transformation will be required.
Cut costs/streamline services/more efficiency/better financial management	Since 2007 Libraries, Registration and Archives has delivered approximately £6 million savings. All opportunities for further efficiencies will continue to be explored and wherever possible, these will be achieved whatever option is approved.
Separate Libraries and archives from registration services	Although currently Libraries, Registration and Archives services are delivered through one integrated service this would be necessary if the trust option is pursued now.
Separate Archives from Libraries	The archives and local history services are all delivered through and within the Kent History and Library centre and the other library buildings. There is much operational synergy between the two services and KCC is keen to see this continue.
Maintain caring/ professional/ knowledgeable staff/Value staff more	This is the intention whatever option goes ahead.
Charge for services/Internet access/better IT facilities/membership fee	The core library service is a free service and will remain free whatever option is approved as this is a statutory requirement. Whichever delivery model is chosen opportunities to generate income while maintaining access to the free services currently available will be required.
Invest more in the service/fight for extra funding/identify new income streams/resist government cuts	See previous answer. All options for inward investment and identification of new income streams are currently being explored and will continue to be explored. However, KCC considers that an independent charitable trust offers the most opportunities to develop the entrepreneurial culture and new income streams.
Increase Council tax/raise taxation	KCC has already increased the council tax for the next financial year to the maximum it can without triggering a

	<p>referendum. Further raising council tax is not a realistic option and would be insufficient to fill the budgetary gap.</p>
<p>Use KCC reserves to fund service</p>	<p>See previous answer. This is unrealistic as although KCC does hold a significant level of reserves these are earmarked – or committed –and local authorities are required to keep a certain level of reserves. Hence this is an unrealistic suggestion and a short term approach which will not enable KCC to meet the medium term financial plan (MTFP) approved by KCC in February 2015. Any use of one off reserves would merely defer the inevitable, would leave future projects/expenditure unfunded and would leave the authority on a less stable footing.</p>
<p>Update the library/online access/better IT facilities/Offer e-books/Audio books/DVDs</p>	<p>This will be considered in any event whatever option is approved to ensure these services stay relevant and sustainable for the future.</p> <p>LRA already offers customers the opportunity to download e-books and you will find audio books and DVDs available to hire as well.</p>
<p>Use volunteers to save money/Encourage more volunteers</p>	<p>Library, Registration and Archive services already have approximately 1000 volunteers adding value to its services and Kent County Council is committed to volunteers enhancing services rather than job substitution.</p> <p>Encouraging more volunteers will continue to be pursued as far as possible whichever option is approved.</p>
<p>Increase income by hiring space out/café &amp; leasing's</p>	<p>This option is being considered and will be developed, where practicable whatever option goes forward.</p>
<p>Organise more workshops/events/more community focus/group activities/hire rooms out</p>	<p>Kent County Council is keen to see this develop whatever option goes forward to ensure the LRA assets are fully utilised. Hiring space out is something that can be explored going forward.</p>
<p>Replace/improve/Reduce senior management</p>	<p>Libraries, Registration and Archives is committed to continue to ensure that its staffing structures are as lean and fit for purpose as possible. A recent management review has just been completed. The service will continue to review and make savings in the future but this alone will not achieve the required levels of savings.</p>
<p>Advertise services/more</p>	<p>The recent consultation has highlighted the need to engage with a wider audience in order to ensure that</p>

promotion/promote service more	services continue to deliver what people need and ensure that the service is sustainable for the future. This needs to happen whatever option goes forward but does not necessarily achieve increased income or reduced costs as the core service is free. New ways of advertising will be explored locally as well as Kent engaging with national partners to take forward.
Longer opening hours	Longer opening hours will not make the savings required for the services and may not and can only be achieved if affordable. It is however possible for the current level of opening hours to be adjusted to better reflect local need where this is appropriate.
Offer a café/relaxation area/leasings/diversification of income	See answers above.
Close small unviable libraries	KCC has consulted on the basis of the existing number of libraries and closure options are not currently being proposed.
Run as a co-operative/involving members of the community	The option of a charitable trust will achieve non domestic rate relief advantages which would not be achievable via a co-operative. However, the trust option will provide enhanced opportunities for the community to be involved in the service. KCC will consider how the community can be involved in any event whatever option goes forward.
Libraries to become more of a community hub/diversification of services/combine with Government Gateway	This option is being considered and KCC will explore this option, wherever possible whatever option goes forward.
Archives to be run separately/with specialist staff/more accessibility	See response above. The importance of the archives is recognised by KCC as is the need for specialist staff. KCC will explore options for widening access to the archive collections including digitisation of some of the collections
Pool services/Co-operation between different councils/other library services	KCC is keen to explore opportunities for partnership and co-operation as identified and will do so, but is not currently aware of any viable opportunities that will deliver savings.