

UPDATE SHEET
Council Meeting
27 February 2025

Item 6 – Enfield Council Library Strategy

The reports to Cabinet and Full Council state at paragraph 63 that opening hours at the 4 large libraries at Enfield Town, Edmonton Green, Palmers Green and Ordnance Unity Centre will remain unchanged from the consultation proposals.

However, there has been a small change. At the consultation stage the proposal was to extend the opening hours at Palmers Green and Ordnance Unity Centre libraries by 10.5 hours, but the opening hours at those libraries will now be extended by 4.5 hours rather than 10.5 hours as originally anticipated. This is due to the additional costs associated with keeping Oakwood library open, while still making the desired savings from the library service. These libraries were popular alternatives for those impacted by the proposed closures and have high usage levels.

Overall, the 9 remaining libraries will be open for a total of 454.5 hours per week. This would mean that the opening hours at the 9 libraries will have a net increase in their weekly opening hours of 18 hours per week. Officers consider that this revised proposal will enable the Council to have a geographical spread of 9 libraries with suitable opening hours in fit for purpose buildings.

Once the new operating model has been implemented, officers intend to annually review our opening hours to ensure they are at optimal times for communities.