

Library Service Delivery Review

Southowram Library



Opening hours

Monday:	13:30 - 17:30
Tuesday:	Closed
Wednesday:	Closed
Thursday:	13:30 - 17:30
Friday:	Closed
Saturday:	10:00 - 12:00
Sunday:	Closed

Southowram Library is open for 10 hours a week. The building was built in 1959, and it needs renovation and modernising –for example its counter is not accessible to wheelchair users.

The entrance has one step with lobby. Wi-Fi is installed

The location is close to majority of local shopping.

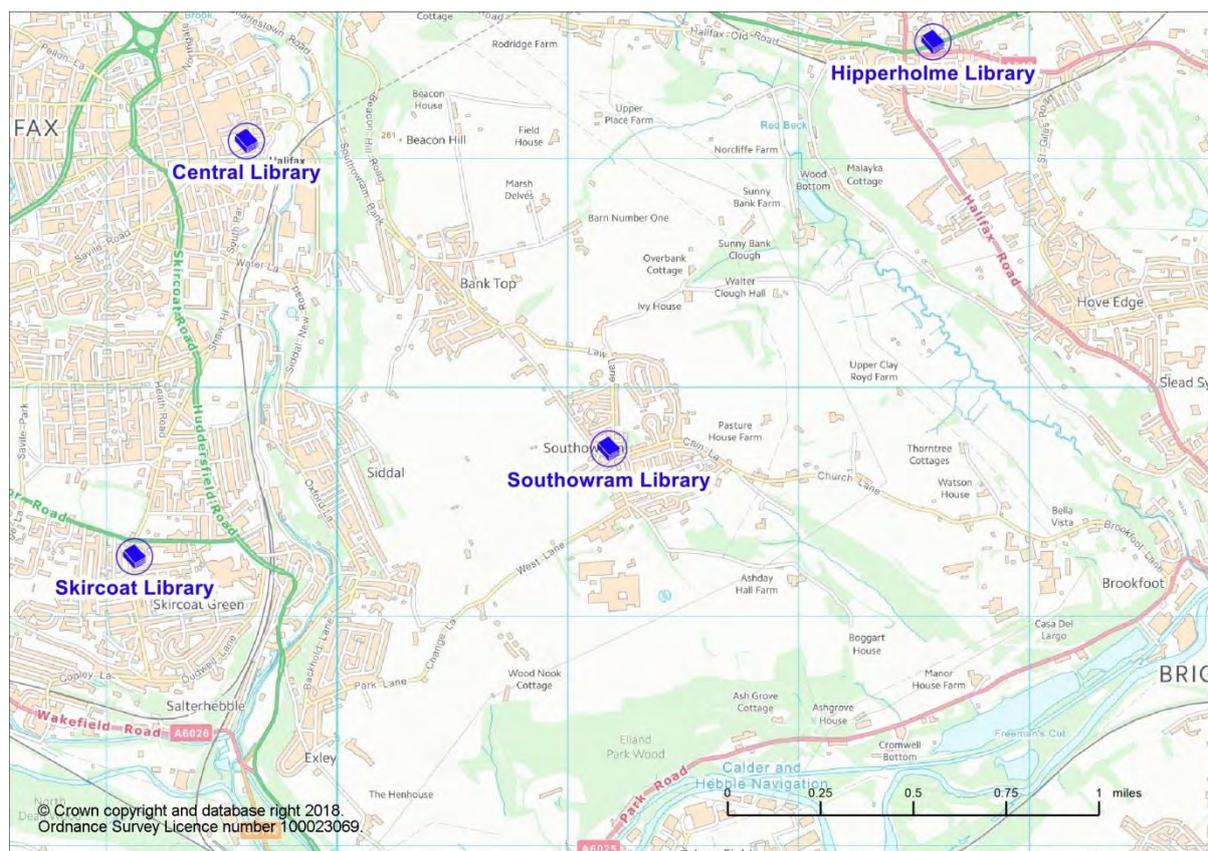
However there are parking issues with neighbouring properties. A single infrequent bus-route stops within 50 yards.

The library is close to the local school, and regular class visits are instigated by members of staff. Several years ago there was an unrealised plan to incorporate the library into Withinfields School.

The Library has a successful readers group (linked to SOFA group).

The nearest libraries are Central Library & Archives (2 miles) and Brighouse (2.8 miles).

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Other Council or Community sites in the locality include the Community centre, Withinfields School and Sure Start centre

Performance and Financial Information

Southowram Library	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
TOTAL ANNUAL ISSUES	3,228	2,369	2,147
TOTAL LIBRARY VISITS	1,400	1,650	1,450
TOTAL ANNUAL ENQUIRIES	150	300	150
ANNUAL BUILDING COSTS -£	Running Costs £2,012 Planned Revenue Building Works £0 Reactive Repairs £0 Total £2,012	Running Costs £2,251 Planned Revenue Building Works £0 Reactive Repairs £80 Total £2,331	Running Costs £2,457 Planned Revenue Building Works £40 Reactive Repairs £240 Total £2,737
ANNUAL STAFFING COSTS -£	£5,775	£5,903	£6,541
TOTAL ANNUAL LIBRARY COSTS - £	£7,787	£8,234	£9,278

For more information on the Library Review visit: calderdale.gov.uk/libraries

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COSTS PER VISIT -£	£5.56	£4.99	£6.40
COSTS PER ISSUE - £	£2.41	£3.48	£4.32
STAFFING F T E	0.3	0.31	0.31
COMPUTER SESSIONS	131	82	69

Options to consider

The context in which the library offer is delivered continues to change, this is both in terms of how the public access it and the ability of the council to fund it in a position of continually reducing budgets. It would not be possible to deliver the level of savings required without changes to the current service delivery.

There is a budgetary requirement to make savings of £30,000 in 2018-19, rising to £160,000 in 2019-20. The saving of £30,000 could be contained within the overall library budget, the successive year saving of £130,000 cannot. The review of community libraries is being undertaken to develop a clear way forward, which identifies and addresses the challenges for each site in the context of the Council's overall priorities.

Repair

- Whilst no major building works are required, the library area needs renovation and modernisation.

Relocate

- We are not aware of any viable Re-location opportunities, however we are keen to explore any opportunities the community may suggest.

Revise

- The library area is relatively small which limits how much the service can be revised.
- The library also serves quite a small catchment area, which is part of the reason why both the cost per visit and cost per issue are relatively high.
- There appears to be little scope for developing a community hub.
- Explore interest in community organisations and groups operating the library, as either a library or as a community venue incorporating a library offer.
- Explore interest in a voluntary group staffing the library, with the Council still providing support with stock and IT – thereby retaining as part of statutory provision.