

Appendix Two

KEY THEMES FROM CONSULTATION

Proposed Centralisation of County Archive Service and William Salt Library Collections Consultation Results

Consultation period 6 January 2014 - 3 February 2014

Drop-in sessions:

Stafford	13-Jan	10am - 7pm
Lichfield	14-Jan	2pm - 7pm
Lichfield	17-Jan	10am - 1pm
Stafford	27-Jan	1pm - 5pm

Stafford:	%	
Support	64%	99
Against	11%	17
Concern	11%	17
Neutral	8%	13
Blank	5%	8
TOTAL:		154

Lichfield:		
Support	18%	16
Against	54%	47
Concern	21%	18
Neutral	3%	3
Blank	3%	3
TOTAL:		87

Combined:	%
115	48%
64	27%
35	15%
16	7%
11	
241	

Positive/general/suggestions

- WSL should be better known and more accessible
- Three services under one roof, all in same place (some noted simpler less confusing) x36
- Keep same proportion of WSL books on open access x 5
- Better storage conditions x 13
- Retain knowledgeable staff x 8
- Skype link from Centre to SRO for help
- Less travelling required x 10
- SRO currently small an old fashioned compared to other offices and so good idea to merge with LRO , **modernise** x 8
- More camera stands by the windows and photography services, natural light x 2
- Wi Fi access
- Join CARN
- Like idea of 'common room' for break area to chat at lunchtime x 9
- Improving online access to information (including catalogues) x 9
- More digital services x2
- Integration of interrelated collections x 4; joined up services x 1
- Like separate area registering people x 2
- Like exhibition area as way of getting people who wouldn't normally visit RO to use it x 3
- Large map tables x 2

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- Separate space for WSL x 5
- Enhances the reputation of the Archive Service and County Council
- Make searchroom a large flexible space to enable use for events, study days, conferences, meetings
- Flexible space x 2
- Service more visible x 2
- Use WSL as a meeting place for societies
- Retain WSL shelving to keep 'old library' atmosphere
- Change focus of service to exhibitions, events, outreach to counter falling visits x 2
- Sensible solution to current cut backs to archive services round the country x 2
- Greater access to WSL collection with longer opening hours
- Have a shop
- Use volunteers to promote service
- Desk lamps
- Retain WSL name
- Retain access in Lichfield via LHFHC x 6
- Free parking
- Provide catalogues and indexes at Lichfield to prepare for visit to SRO
- Better microfiche readers for Lichfield centre

Exhibitions

- Buildings, castles, churches, mining history
- World War One
- Imaginative display of WSL collection, Stories for the Salt – link to weekly newspaper articles
- Family history x 4
- Local history x 3
- Probate records, maps x 2, newspapers, photos, census
- Interesting but not impenetrable
- Themed exhibitions x 2
- Parish registers, wills
- Parish histories
- Sutherland papers
- Industries x 3
- Famous people
- From local societies, community groups (x 6 , flexible space (x2) to use as function room with LARC
- Stoke
- Families
- School children's work
- Showcasing documents x 2
- Hospitals, health
- More like Stafford a proper little town or Out of Darkness
- Oldest items
- Archaeological excavations
- Audio, oral history
- New acquisitions

Appendix Two

- Interactive for young people
- Represent all parts of the county

Challenges/concerns

- Attracting younger generation
- School visits x 3
- Cost/ease of parking in town x 4
- Disruption of service during works
- Loss of identity for the WSL x 8
- Should not close WSL x3
- Should not close LRO x23
- Not close LRO but merge WSL and SRO x 4
- New site with better car parking x2
- Increased promotion of the services x 5
- Don't rely on volunteers too much x 2
- Is the space big enough for visitors
- Will document production suffer? Rapid access to documents
- Find another use for WSL x 4
- Concern about travelling too far
- What about WSL building
- Merge with St Mary's Heritage Centre Lichfield
- Noise
- Quicker to search separate collections
- Travel times especially from Derbyshire x4