

**24 February 2025**

**An open letter to all front-line libraries staff**

Dear colleague

We know that the plans we've announced today may come as a surprise, but we want to reassure you that we're very much looking forward to working with you to grow and nurture Suffolk's wonderful library service.

The first thing to say is that the library service you know and love is in very safe and protective hands. Together, we're going to keep all of Suffolk's 45 libraries open, maintain opening hours, replace the mobile libraries, buy new book stock and replace many of the public computers across our sites. We're looking forward to hearing your ideas on how to build on the work you're already doing. We're excited about the future.

Like you, we know that libraries are not just buildings with books. They are so much more. The groups, the learning, the support, the companionships and the warm and safe spaces – they're all features of a modern library service that sits right at the heart of the communities it serves. Libraries are social anchors on which we can all rely.

Whether you're an employee, volunteer or supporter of Suffolk's libraries, we hope you'll share our ambition to achieve great things in the coming years. Suffolk County Council has a good record of supporting volunteers, and we fully intend to continue this work with library volunteers.

If our plans to bring libraries back into Suffolk County Council get approved in March, we can start that work together. We'll be in touch straight away.

Thank you for reading this letter and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Your friends and colleagues at Suffolk County Council