



# Halesworth Town Council

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**Cllr. Matthew Hicks,  
Leader, Suffolk County Council.**

**VIA EMAIL**

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Dear Councillor Hicks,

## **Suffolk Libraries**

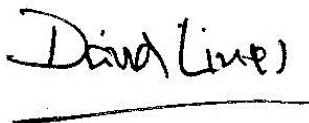
I am writing on behalf of the Town Council to express its great concern about the County Council's proposal to take the Suffolk Library Service in-house – an action it considers precipitate and ill-advised.

The Town Council believes that experience shows that it would be a retrograde step, especially when considering the recent poll that demonstrated strong user satisfaction with the current arrangements. In addition, the justification put forward of utilising the libraries for increased 'outreach' services begs the question - if that is such a good idea, why has it not been done already? And, further, what is there to stop it being done now, no matter who manages the Suffolk Libraries?

The Town Council is also disappointed, on behalf of its residents, about the shortfalls in the decision-making process – in particular, the Cabinet's apparent unwillingness to recognise the considerable groundswell of public dismay and allow a more reasoned and inclusive consideration of the whole process.

With East Anglia at the absolute vanguard of local government reorganisation, there is a strong and distinct possibility that these arrangements will be undone in two years' time if the single unitary option for Suffolk is not adopted. This would make SCC's strategy unnecessary and disruptive. Retaining the status quo for the County's libraries for the next two years or so is clearly the only sensible and practical option.

Kind regards,

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