

Information about Enfield's libraries and our approach to developing a proposal for a new library strategy

www.enfield.gov.uk



Background

- We must provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for people who live, work or study in Enfield. This includes books and access to digital resources, quiet spaces for study and reflection, access to support groups and social activities for all ages, health and wellbeing support, makerspaces, training and employment advice.
- Like all local authorities, the Council is facing significant funding pressures. The Council has had a 42% reduction in overall funding since 2010. The Council is under a duty to set a balanced budget. The Council must make savings of £39.4 million in 2024/25, and there is a forecasted budget gap of £118.7 million for the 5 years through to 2028/29. It is inevitable that savings will need to be made now and in years to come across Council services in order to set a balanced budget.
- The Council is under a duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service. In light of these funding pressures, we need to consider whether our library service can be delivered in a more efficient way, while ensuring that it continues to meet people's needs and is comprehensive.

Developing a proposal for a new library strategy

- We want to hear from you about whether you use our library service, your experience of our libraries and how we could deliver our library service more efficiently so as to make savings in the library budget.
- We will use your feedback and ideas to help us develop a draft proposal for a new library strategy for Enfield. We will then publish and consult on this draft strategy in summer 2024. We will carefully consider any responses to that consultation and anticipate being able to finalise a new library strategy and implement any changes in early 2025.
- This document provides some further information on our existing libraries in 2023.
- Information on the engagement, including a link to our questionnaire is available at enfield.gov.uk/consultations

Our library estate

- There are 16* public libraries in Enfield. This includes:
 - 4 Libraries which are Hub Libraries, as they are the largest libraries
 - Edmonton Green
 - Enfield Town
 - Ordnance Unity Centre
 - Palmers Green
 - 13 Libraries which are Community Libraries, as they are smaller libraries
 - Bowes Road
 - Bullsmoor
 - Enfield Highway
 - Enfield Island Village
 - Fore Street
 - John Jackson
 - Millfield Theatre
 - Oakwood
 - Ponders End
 - Ridge Avenue
 - Southgate
 - Winchmore Hill
- In addition, Enfield also offers a Home and Digital Library service
- To find out more about these libraries and their opening hours, please click [here](#).

* In addition to these 16 libraries, Angel Raynham library is also classified as a public library. However, it is located inside Raynham Primary School and is not accessible to the general public. It is not staffed by the Council's library service, has it's own stock of books and the operating costs of this library are funded by Raynham primary school.

Enfield libraries in context

Enfield has 16 public libraries in the borough, including 4 flagship Hubs. The average number of libraries for a London borough is 12; the highest being 17 (Barnet) and the lowest being 6 (Brent, Harrow, Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea).

The table below shows that Enfield has one library per 19,411 people, whereas Haringey for example has one library per 29,355.

Borough*	Enfield	Barnet	Haringey	Waltham Forest	Croydon	Redbridge	Brent	Ealing
Number of Libraries	16	17	9	9	14	11	6	13
Population	330,000	389,300	264,200	278,400	390,800	309,800	338,918	338,400
Population divided by number of libraries	20,625	24,331	29,355	30,933	27,914	28,164	56,486	26,031
Area (hectare)**	8220.01	8674.81	2959.85	3880.82	8649.68	5,640.35	4,323.3	5,554.45
Area (km2)	82.20	86.74	29.59	38.80	86.49	56.40	43.32	55.56
Area (km2) divided by number of libraries	5.14	5.42	3.28	4.31	6.17	5.13	7.22	4.27

* These boroughs are provided for comparison as they are identified as comparable by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and are neighbouring boroughs or have similar population size or demographics to Enfield.

Our library estate

The maps on the following slides show where our existing libraries are and the areas of the borough which are within a 10 or 20 minute walk, a 5 minute cycle or 5 minute drive.

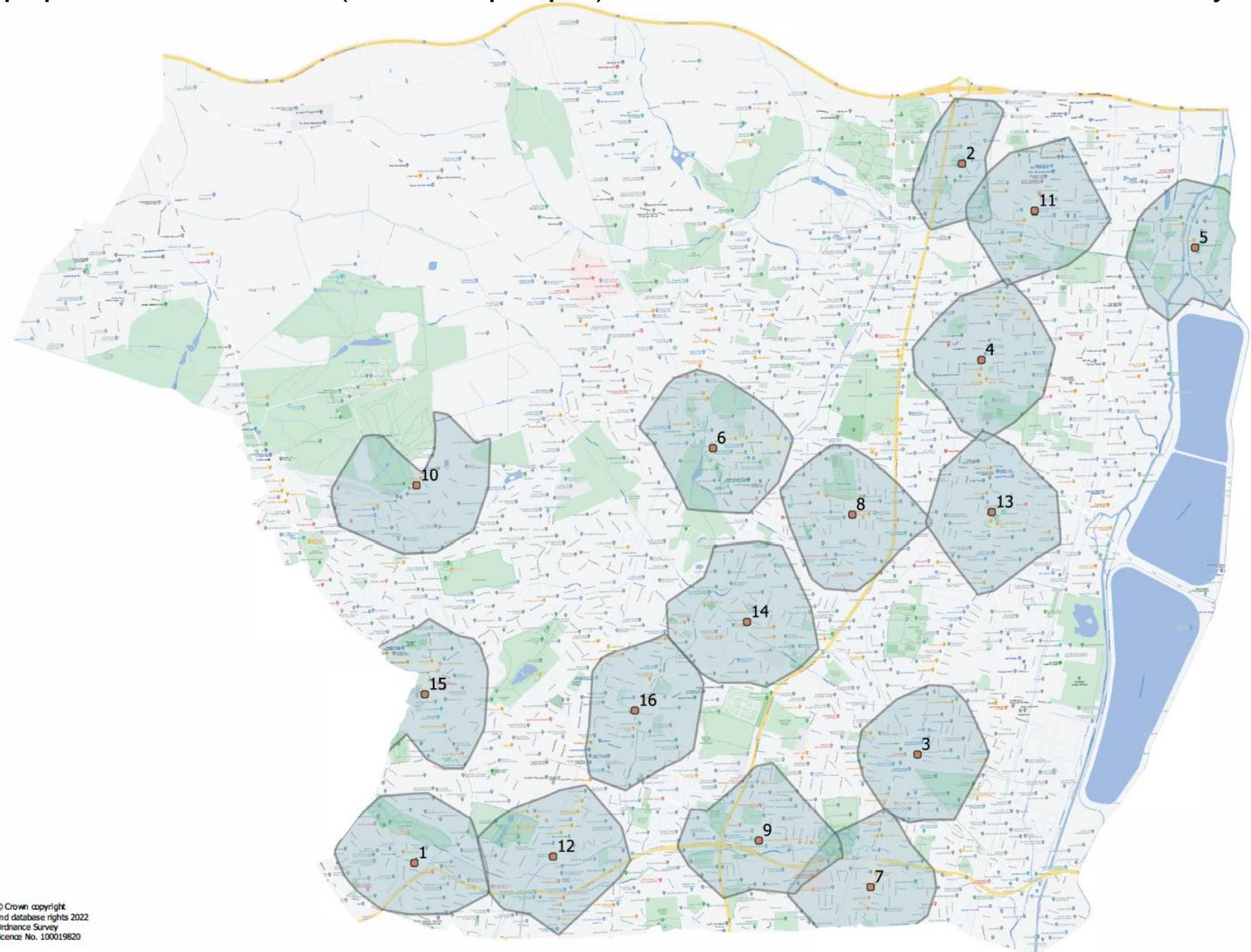
You can also look at travel time by area to different libraries on public transport using the Transport for London mapping tool at:

tfl.gov.uk/info-for/urban-planning-and-construction/planning-applications/planning-with-webcat

Our library estate – within 10 minutes walk

It is estimated that 48% of the population in Enfield (159,456 people) live within a 10 minute walk of a library

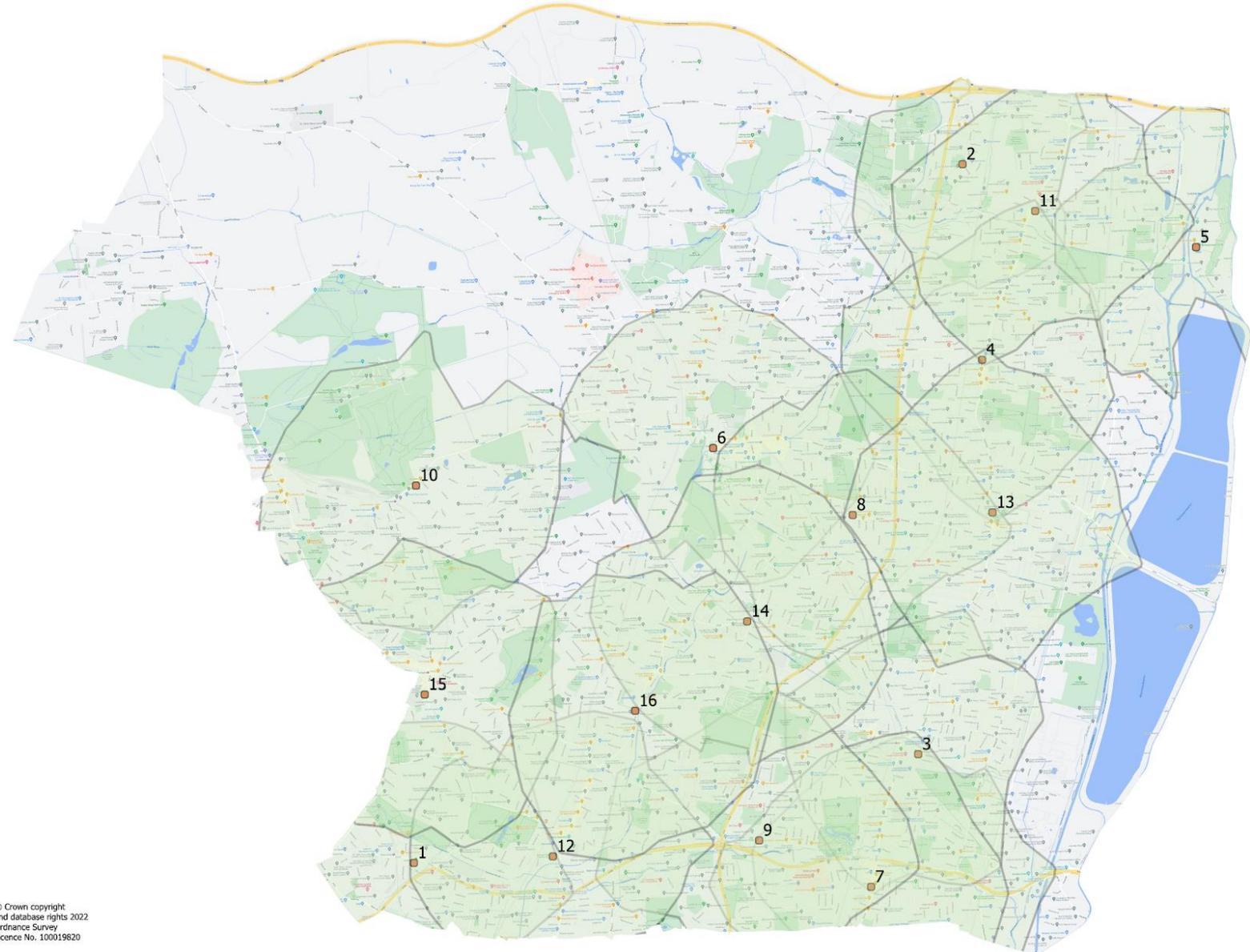
	Library
1	Bowes Road
2	Bullsmoor
3	Edmonton Green
4	Enfield Highway
5	Enfield Island Village
6	Enfield Town
7	Fore Street
8	John Jackson
9	Millfield House
10	Oakwood
11	Ordnance Unity Centre
12	Palmers Green
13	Ponders End
14	Ridge Avenue
15	Southgate
16	Winchmore Hill



Our library estate – within 20 minutes walk

It is estimated that 93% of the population in Enfield (305,718 people) live within a 20 minute walk of a library

	Library
1	Bowes Road
2	Bullsmoor
3	Edmonton Green
4	Enfield Highway
5	Enfield Island Village
6	Enfield Town
7	Fore Street
8	John Jackson
9	Millfield House
10	Oakwood
11	Ordnance Unity Centre
12	Palmers Green
13	Ponders End
14	Ridge Avenue
15	Southgate
16	Winchmore Hill

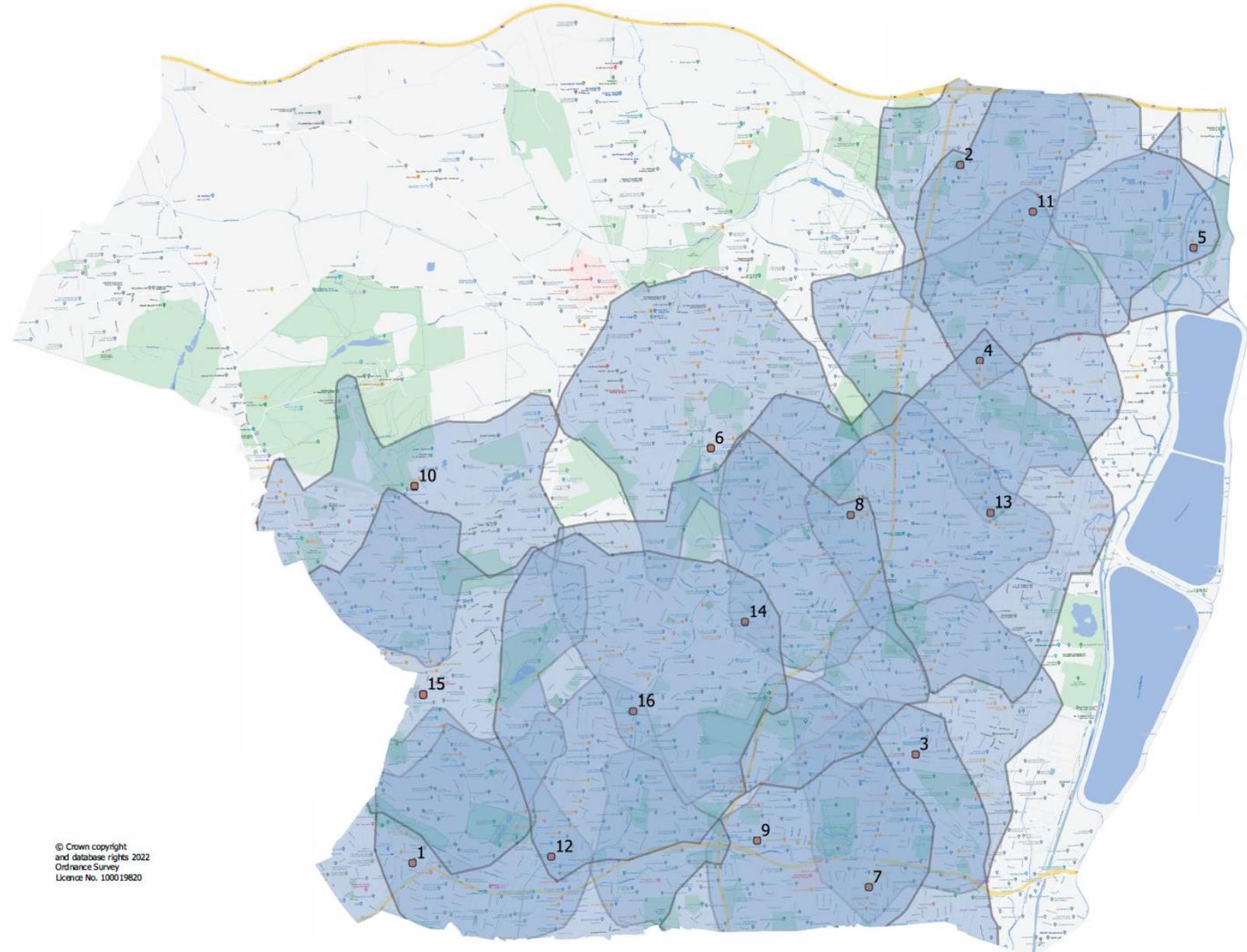


© Crown copyright
and database rights 2022
Ordnance Survey
Licence No. 100019620

Our library estate – within 5 minute cycle

It is estimated that 95% of the population in Enfield (313,194 people) live within a 5 minute cycle of a library

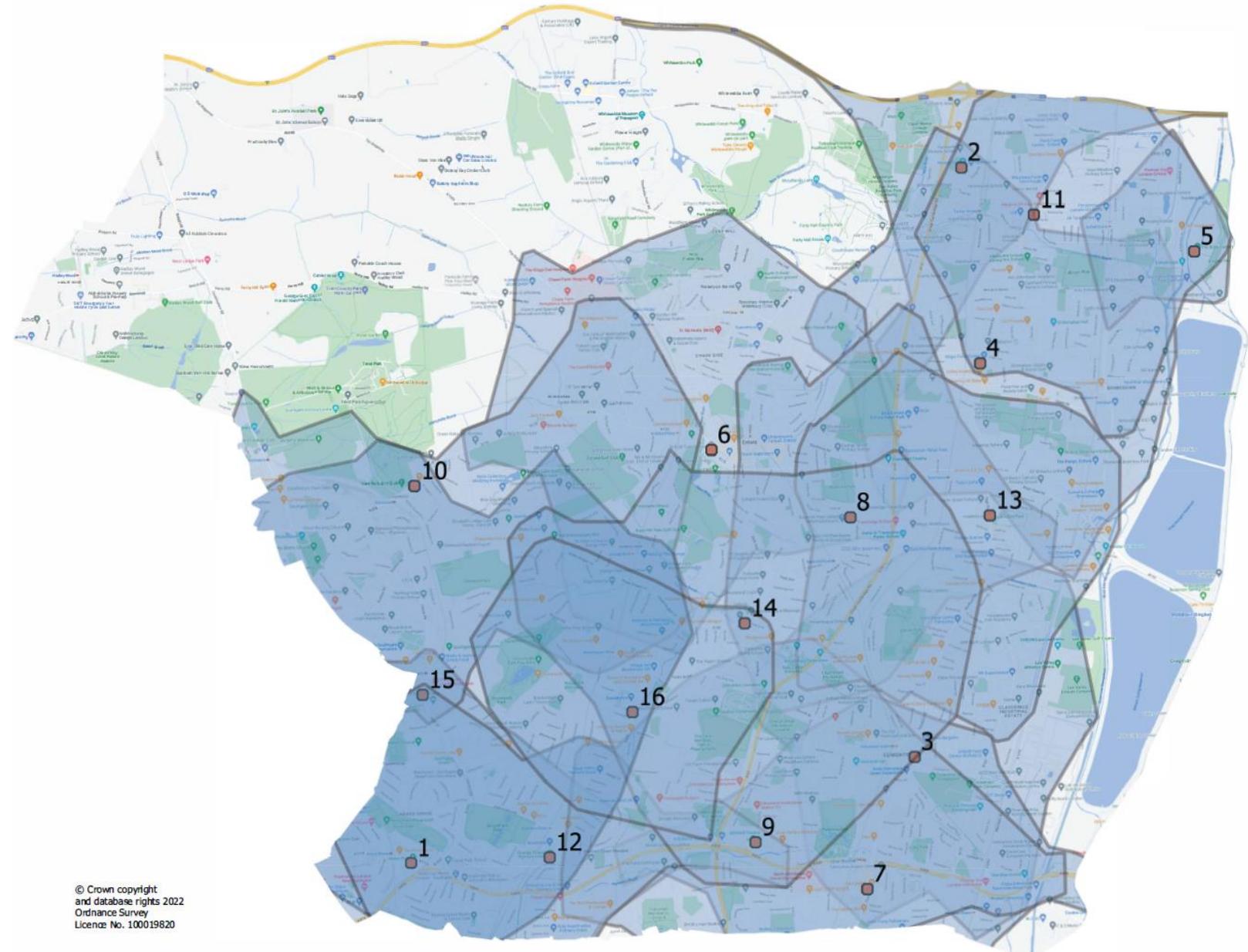
	Library
1	Bowes Road
2	Bullsmoor
3	Edmonton Green
4	Enfield Highway
5	Enfield Island Village
6	Enfield Town
7	Fore Street
8	John Jackson
9	Millfield House
10	Oakwood
11	Ordnance Unity Centre
12	Palmers Green
13	Ponders End
14	Ridge Avenue
15	Southgate
16	Winchmore Hill



Our library estate – within 5 minute drive

It is estimated that 100% of the population in Enfield (329,980 people) live within a 5 minute drive of a library

	Library
1	Bowes Road
2	Bullsmoor
3	Edmonton Green
4	Enfield Highway
5	Enfield Island Village
6	Enfield Town
7	Fore Street
8	John Jackson
9	Millfield House
10	Oakwood
11	Ordnance Unity Centre
12	Palmers Green
13	Ponders End
14	Ridge Avenue
15	Southgate
16	Winchmore Hill



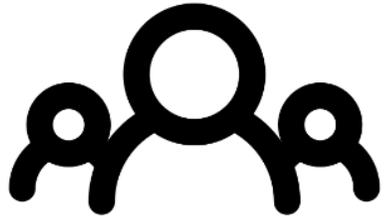
Our library estate

This map shows the locations of bus stops in the borough and their proximity to libraries, as well as the connectivity of the borough by bus.



Visits to our libraries during 2022/23

During the year there were:



1.004 million visitors to Enfield libraries



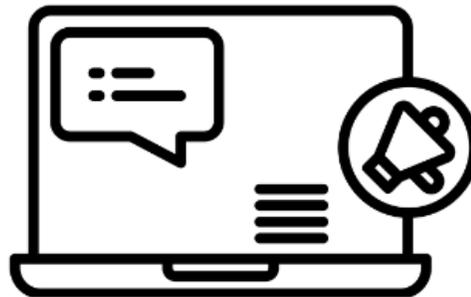
19 issues and renewals per hour open across all Enfield libraries



39,374 active library users (41% of all library members)



13,888 new members of our library service



800,717 e-newspapers, e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines accessed through the digital library service

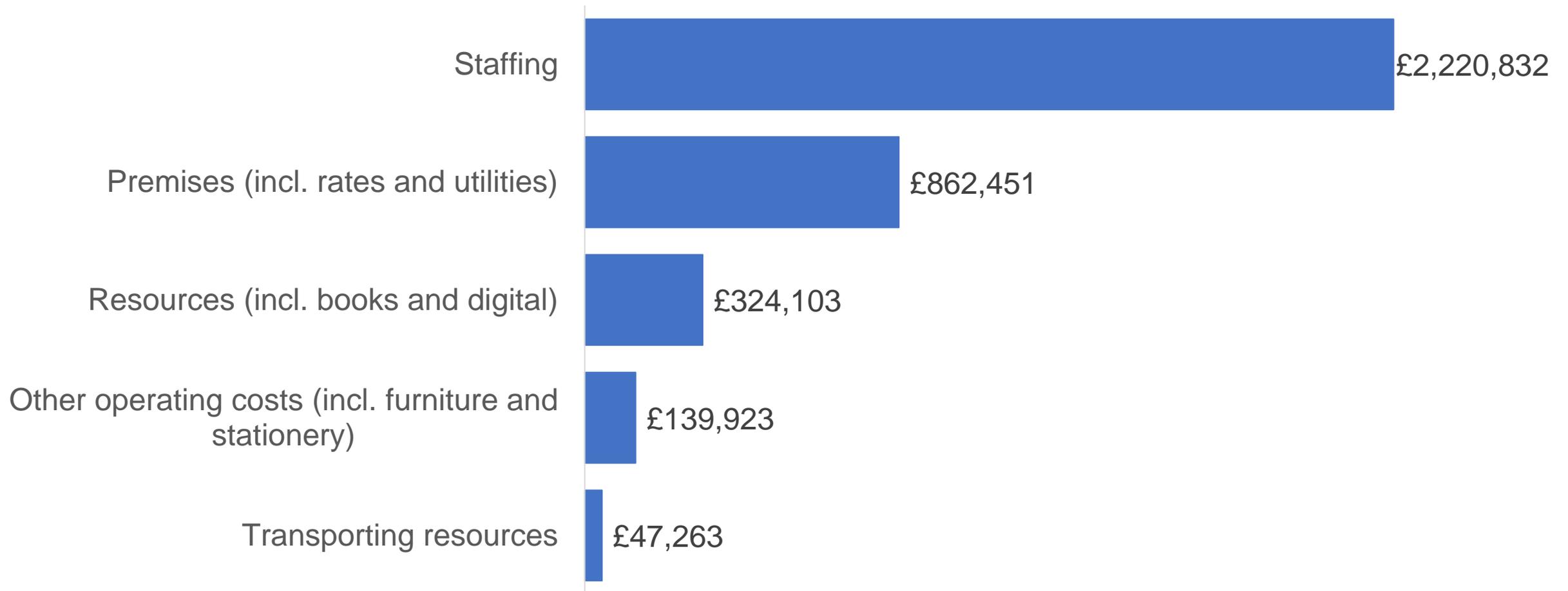


The cost per visit was £3.58 and the cost per hour open was £101.36

Annual library budget: expenditure

In 2022/23 the library service in Enfield had a gross expenditure of **£3.6 million**

Premises costs, included in operating costs, are based on costs in previous financial years, including taking 5 year averages on maintenance costs.



Annual expenditure by library during 2022/23

Premises costs, included in operating costs, are based on costs in previous financial years, including taking 5 year averages on maintenance costs.

	Cost per hour open	Cost per visit	Operating Costs
Ordnance Unity Centre	£179.12	£4.58	£461,066.71
Bullsmoor	£65.21	£14.40	£77,988.41
Enfield Highway	£50.15	£5.57	£93,873.07
Enfield Island Village	£85.50	£14.59	£88,923.91
Edmonton Green	£214.93	£2.19	£631,450.43
Ponders End	£53.94	£6.46	£146,379
Millfield House	£0.75	£0.09	£1,366.06
Fore Street	£90.58	£7.67	£188,414.93
Palmers Green	£181.68	£6.09	£467,636.66
Bowes Road	£62.69	£11.71	£78,240.76
Winchmore Hill	£68.93	£4.03	£130,830.80
Southgate	£58.26	£6.06	£136,339.29
Oakwood	£72.01	£4.90	£200,344.10
Enfield Town	£192.81	£2.09	£586,526.24
Ridge Avenue	£81.48	£4.44	£211,856.82
John Jackson	£53.29	£4.80	£119,166.21

Timeline

Phase one engagement

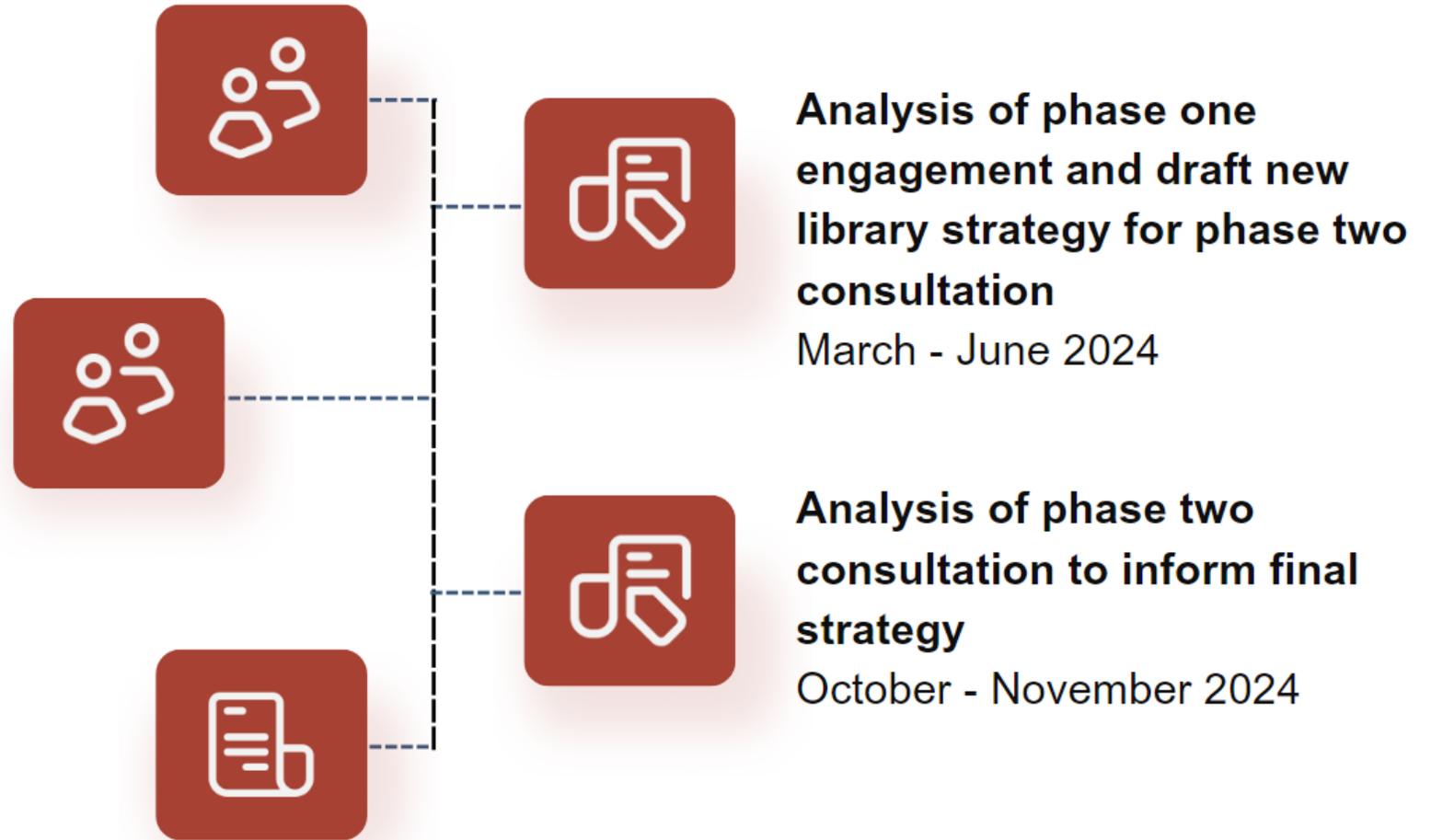
December 2023 - March 2024

Phase two consultation

July - September 2024

Approval of final strategy (Cabinet and Council)

January - February 2025



Have your say

- Please give us your views on our libraries by completing our questionnaire.
- We will also be available to discuss the engagement, answer your questions and help you complete the questionnaire if required. Find out where we'll be and when enfield.gov.uk/consultations/library-engagement
- If you prefer, you can also email us at Libraries.Engagement@enfield.gov.uk