Help us to shape the future of Birmingham Libraries: A consultation

Birmingham
City Council

Introduction

Birmingham's libraries are buildings that many generations of Brummies have used and enjoyed for a host of things including leisure, work and research purposes.

Today, alongside the iconic Library of Birmingham, there are 37 community libraries in Birmingham and last year alone there were 2 million visits to community libraries, with 1.59 million books borrowed. It's clear that our Community Libraries are trusted spaces, which are free to enter and open to all.

However, as identified nationally, expectations of libraries have and will continue to change. In December 2014, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Independent Library Report for England was published. The report highlighted the "sustained and severe financial situation" and the "rapid pace of current change" which is impacting on libraries across England.

Within this challenging context, the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 gives Birmingham City Council a statutory duty to provide "a comprehensive and efficient library service".

We are committed to doing this – but as expectations change and financial challenges emerge, we need to reflect upon what we are doing with the resources available to us.

I must be clear that is a genuine and open consultation process. If anyone has workable ideas for the future of their local library or libraries, we want to hear them. We are looking at developing new partnerships and welcome your involvement.

Now is the time to have a say to ensure the Libraries of the future are as relevant and well-regarded as they have been in the past.

Cllr Ian Ward
Deputy Leader
Birmingham City Council

Community libraries –
The position now (2016-2017)

Anticipated projected expenditure on service in 2016/17:

c.£5.5m

Community library employee numbers:

112 FTE

(full-time equivalent)

£2.90

Current hours:

1,134.5
per week

(across all 37 community libraries)

Average cost per visit to a community library

Community libraries –
The future position (2017/2018)

Anticipated projected expenditure on service in 2017/18:

c.£3.7m

Proposed community library employee numbers:

88 FTE

(full-time equivalent)

Proposed hours:

1,019 per week

(across all 35 community libraries)

Libraries proposed for closure:

Aston & Sutton Coldfield

The tiered model

Tier 1: Main Library
These would be open for 35 hours per week, more likely to be delivered from the current library building and have other services delivered from the site such as the benefit verification service. All will have investment in installing self-service equipment.

Proposal: The proposal is for 19 sites to be in this category.

Tier 2: Community Library
These would be open for 21 hours per week, likely to be delivered from the current library building although options may exist to increase hours of operation by working with partners.

Proposal: The proposal is for 10 sites to be in this category.

Tier 3: Supported Community Library
These would be run by a community organisation, from either their own site or via a facility transferred to them by the council. BCC will work in partnership to assist organisations through 15 hours' staffing support and through the provision of books and resources.

Proposal: The proposal is for 6 sites to be in this category.

Tier 4: Community Initiated Library Services
The proposal under Tier 4 is to ensure that any local schemes put forward that increase access to one of the universal offers (Digital, Learning, Information, Reading and Health) are considered for support. This, for example, could be organisations wanting to loan books or providing free internet access etc.

Proposal: There is no proposed number for the local offer – this will be dependent on the ideas that come forward and the number that can be supported through the £20,000 small grant budget available.

The tiers at a glance

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
Opening hours	35	21 (possibly more by working with partners)	15 (Birmingham City Council support, possibly more)	Subject to any viable community proposals put forward
Likely venue	Existing building	Existing building	Community organisation's own site or facility transferred by the council	Subject to any viable community proposals put forward
Extra details	Other services to be delivered from the site such as benefit verification service All will have investment in self-service equipment		BCC will provide books and other resources such as talking books and PCs	Any scheme would need to increase access to one of the five Society of Chief Librarians' universal offers: Digital, Learning, Information, Reading or Health A £20k small grant budget will be available to fund any proposals that are agreed
Number of libraries in tier	19	10	6	Subject to any viable community proposals put forward

Which tier is my library in?

Tier 1
(19 in total)

Acocks Green Library	Handsworth Library	Northfield Library	Sparkhill Library
Balsall Heath Library	Harborne Library	Quinton Library	Yardley Wood Library
Birchfield Library	Kings Heath Library	Shard End Library	Ward End Library
Erdington Library	Kings Norton Library	Small Heath Library	Weoley Castle Library
Hall Green Library	Mere Green Library	South Yardley Library	

Tier 2
(10 in total)

Boldmere Library	Perry Common Library	Tower Hill Library
Druids Heath Library	Sheldon Library	Walmley Library
Frankley	Spring Hill Library	
Kingstanding Library	Stirchley Library	

Tier 3
(six in total)

Bartley Green Library	Kents Moat Library
Bloomsbury Library	Selly Oak Library
Glebe Farm Library	West Heath Library

Tier 4
(one in total)

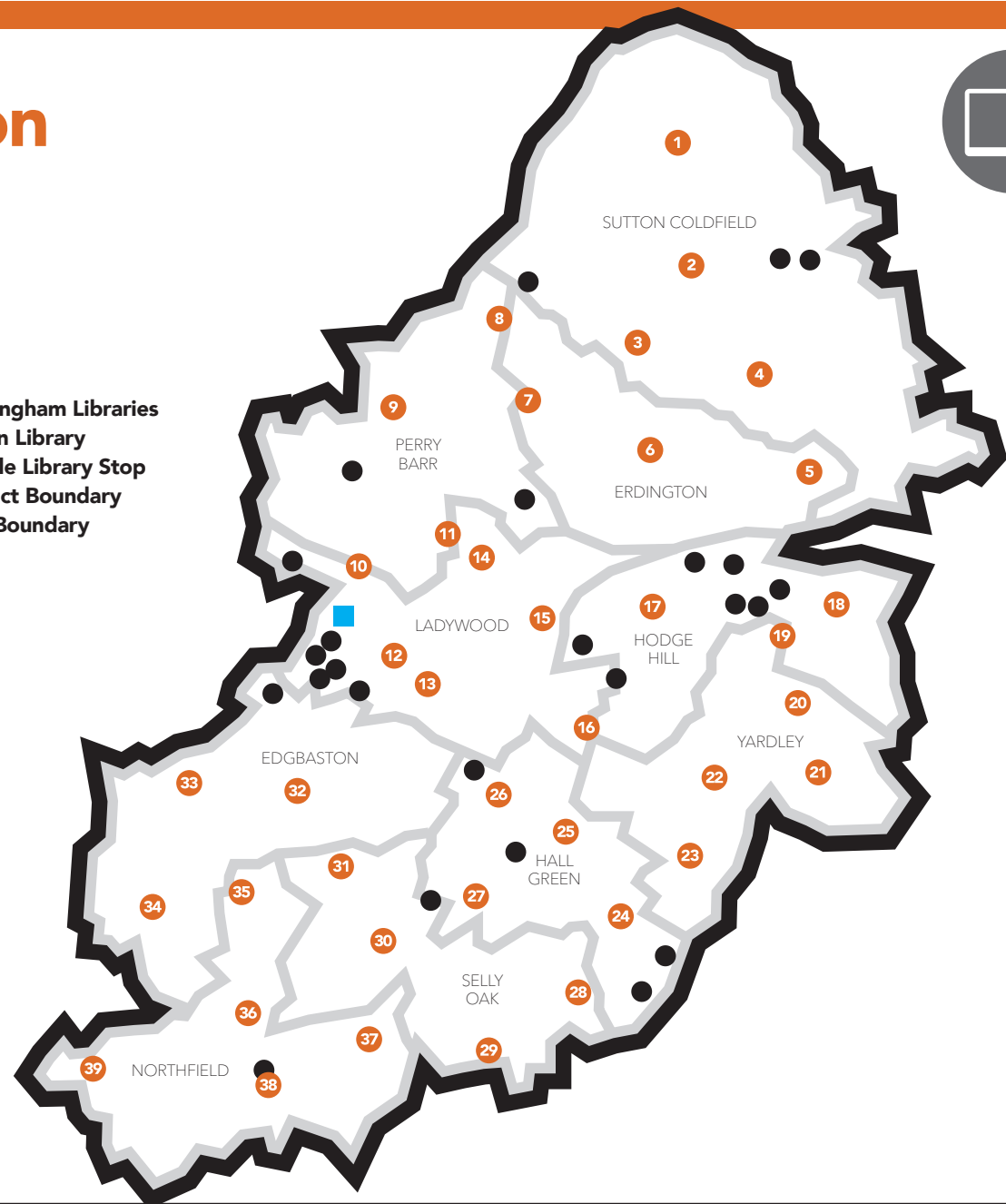Castle Vale Library (run by Tenants' and Residents' Alliance – TRA)

Current library provision across Birmingham

1. Mere Green Library
2. Sutton Coldfield Library
3. Boldmere Library
4. Walmley Library
5. Castle Vale Library (run by TRA)
6. Erdington Library
7. Perry Common Library
8. Kingstanding Library
9. Tower Hill Library
10. Handsworth Library
11. Birchfield Library
12. Spring Hill Library
13. Library of Birmingham
14. Aston Library
15. Bloomsbury Library (service provided by static mobile library)
16. Small Heath Library
17. Ward End Library
18. Shard End Library
19. Glebe Farm Library
20. Kents Moat Library
21. Sheldon Library
22. South Yardley Library
23. Acocks Green Library
24. Hall Green Library
25. Sparkhill Library
26. Balsall Heath Library
27. Kings Heath Library
28. Yardley Wood Library
29. Druids Heath Library
30. Stirchley Library
31. Selly Oak Library
32. Harborne Library
33. Quinton Library
34. Bartley Green Library
35. Weoley Castle Library
36. Northfield Library
37. Kings Norton Library
38. West Heath Library (temporarily closed)
39. Frankley Library

KEY
- Birmingham Libraries
- Prison Library
- Mobile Library Stop
- District Boundary
- City Boundary

Proposed library provision across Birmingham

TIER 1
1. Mere Green Library
2. Erdington Library
3. Shard End Library
4. Ward End Library
5. Birchfield Library
6. Handsworth Library
7. Small Heath Library
8. South Yardley Library
9. Acocks Green Library
10. Hall Green Library
11. Sparkhill Library
12. Balsall Heath Library
13. Kings Heath Library
14. Harborne Library
15. Quinton Library
16. Yardley Wood Library
17. Kings Norton Library
18. Northfield Library
19. Weoley Castle Library

TIER 2
1. Walmley Library
2. Boldmere Library
3. Perry Common Library
4. Kingstanding Library
5. Tower Hill Library
6. Spring Hill Library
7. Sheldon Library
8. Druids Heath Library
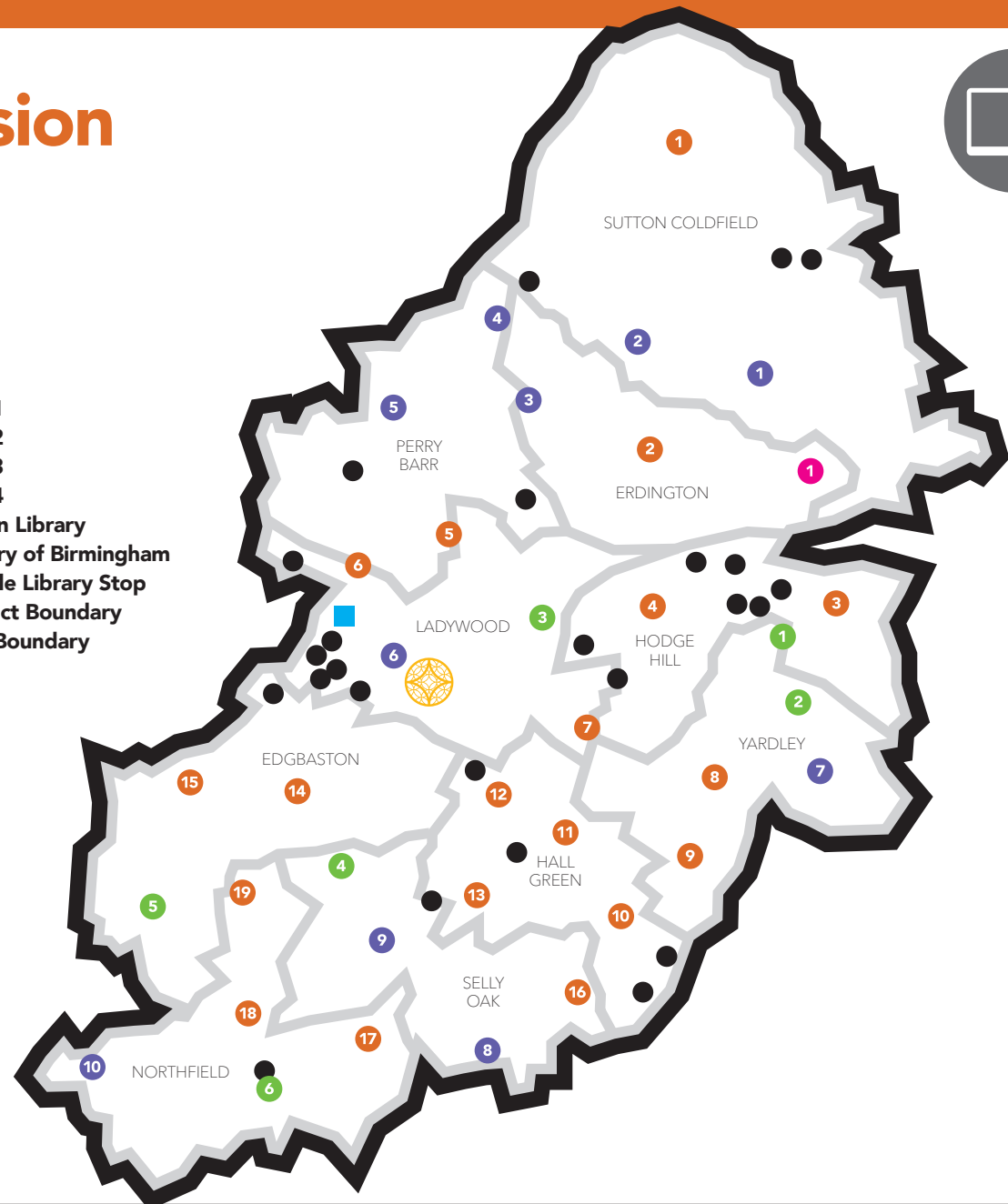9. Stirchley Library
10. Frankley

TIER 3
1. Glebe Farm Library
2. Kents Moat Library
3. Bloomsbury Library (service provided by static mobile library)
4. Selly Oak Library
5. Bartley Green Library
6. West Heath Library (temporarily closed)

TIER 4
1. Castle Vale Library (run by TRA)

KEY
- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Tier 3
- Tier 4
- Prison Library
- Library of Birmingham
- Mobile Library Stop
- District Boundary
- City Boundary

SUTTON COLDFIELD

PERRY BARR

ERDINGTON

LADYWOOD

HODGE HILL

YARDLEY

EDGBASTON
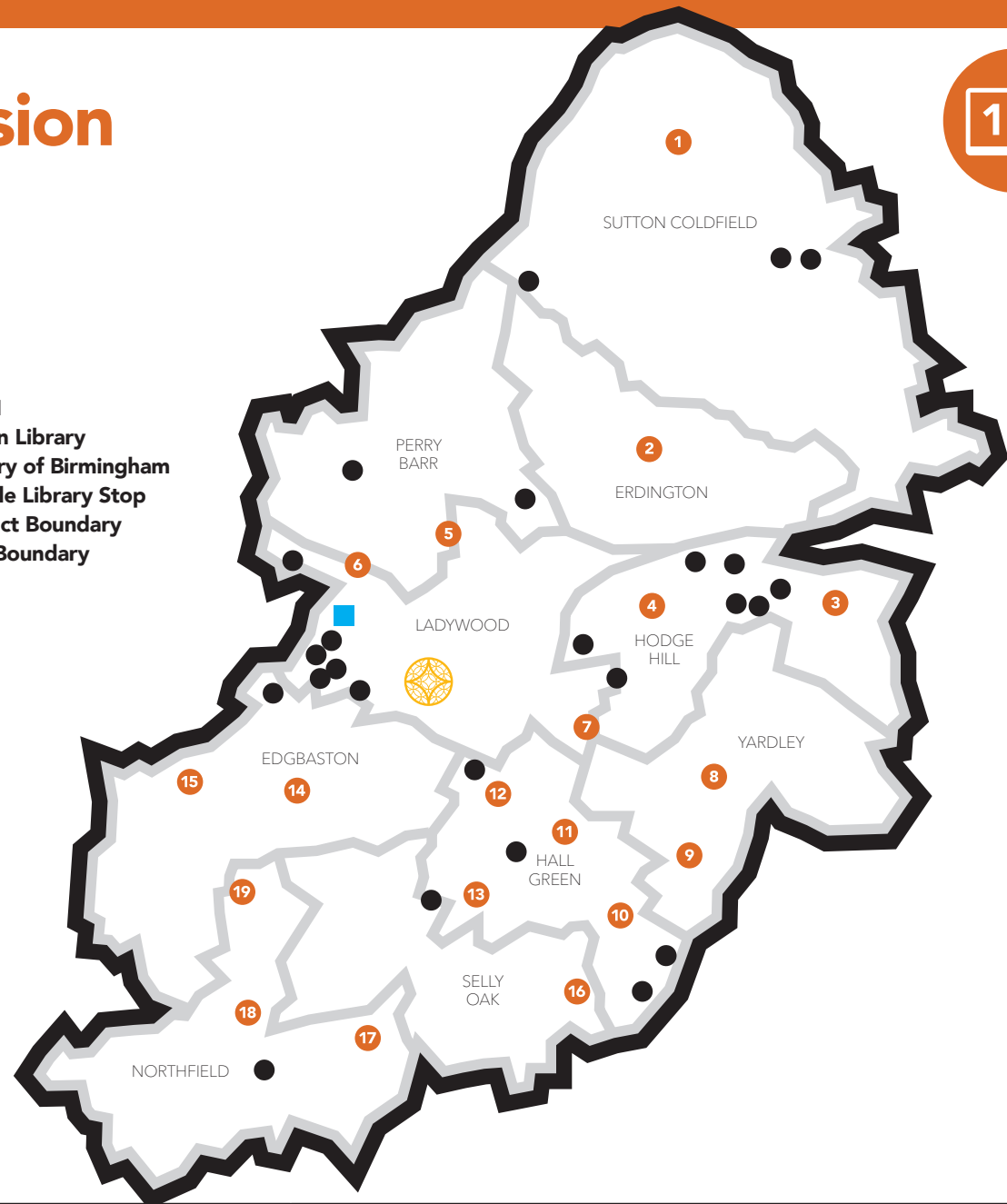
HALL GREEN

SELLY OAK

NORTHFIELD

Proposed library provision
Tier 1

1. Mere Green Library
2. Erdington Library
3. Shard End Library
4. Ward End Library
5. Birchfield Library
6. Handsworth Library
7. Small Heath Library
8. South Yardley Library
9. Acocks Green Library
10. Hall Green Library
11. Sparkhill Library
12. Balsall Heath Library
13. Kings Heath Library
14. Harborne Library
15. Quinton Library
16. Yardley Wood Library
17. Kings Norton Library
18. Northfield Library
19. Weoley Castle Library

KEY
- Tier 1
- Prison Library
- Library of Birmingham
- Mobile Library Stop
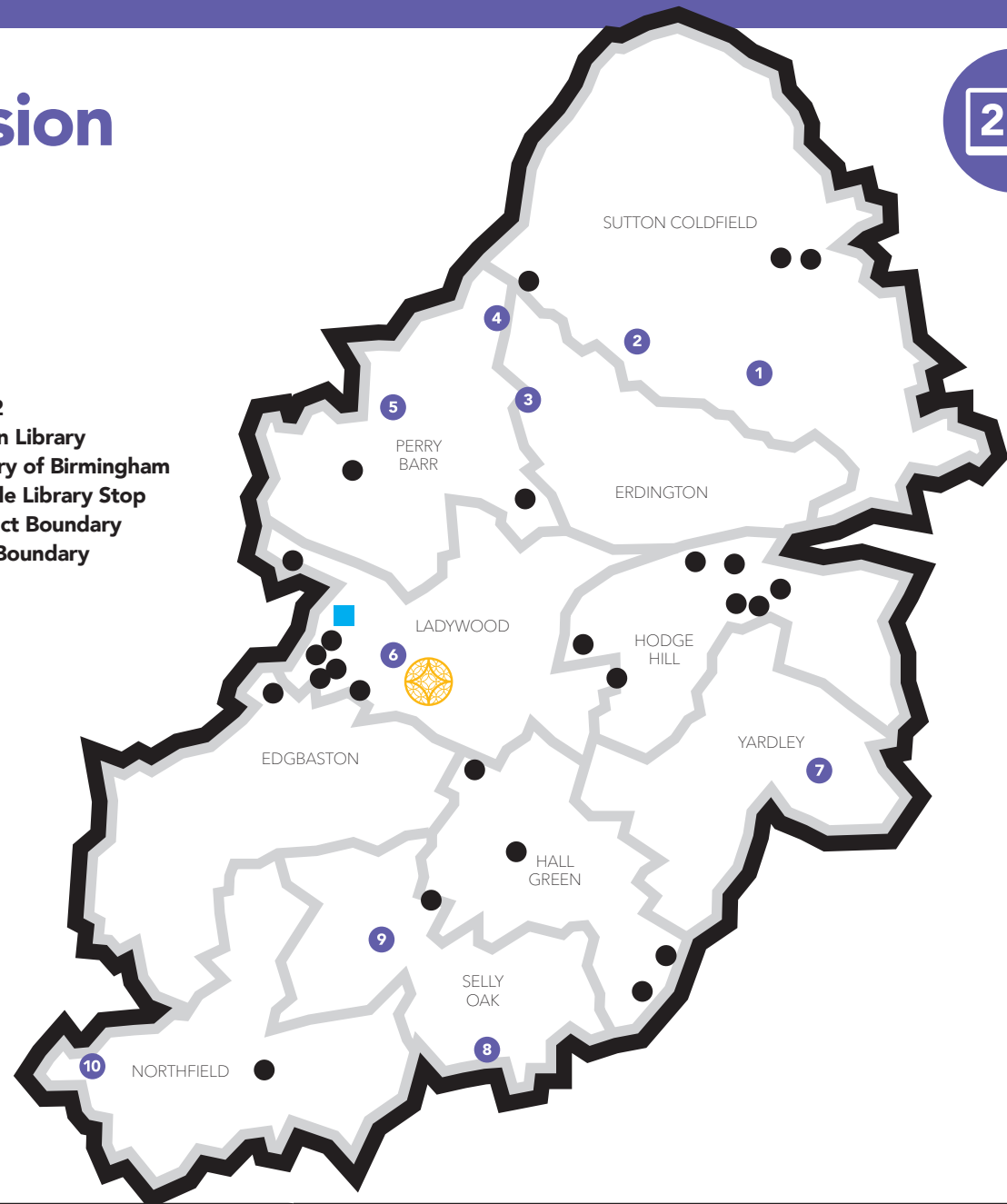- District Boundary
- City Boundary

Proposed library provision
Tier 2

1. Walmley Library
2. Boldmere Library
3. Perry Common Library
4. Kingstanding Library
5. Tower Hill Library
6. Spring Hill Library
7. Sheldon Library
8. Druids Heath Library
9. Stirchley Library
10. Frankley

KEY
- Tier 2
- Prison Library
- Library of Birmingham
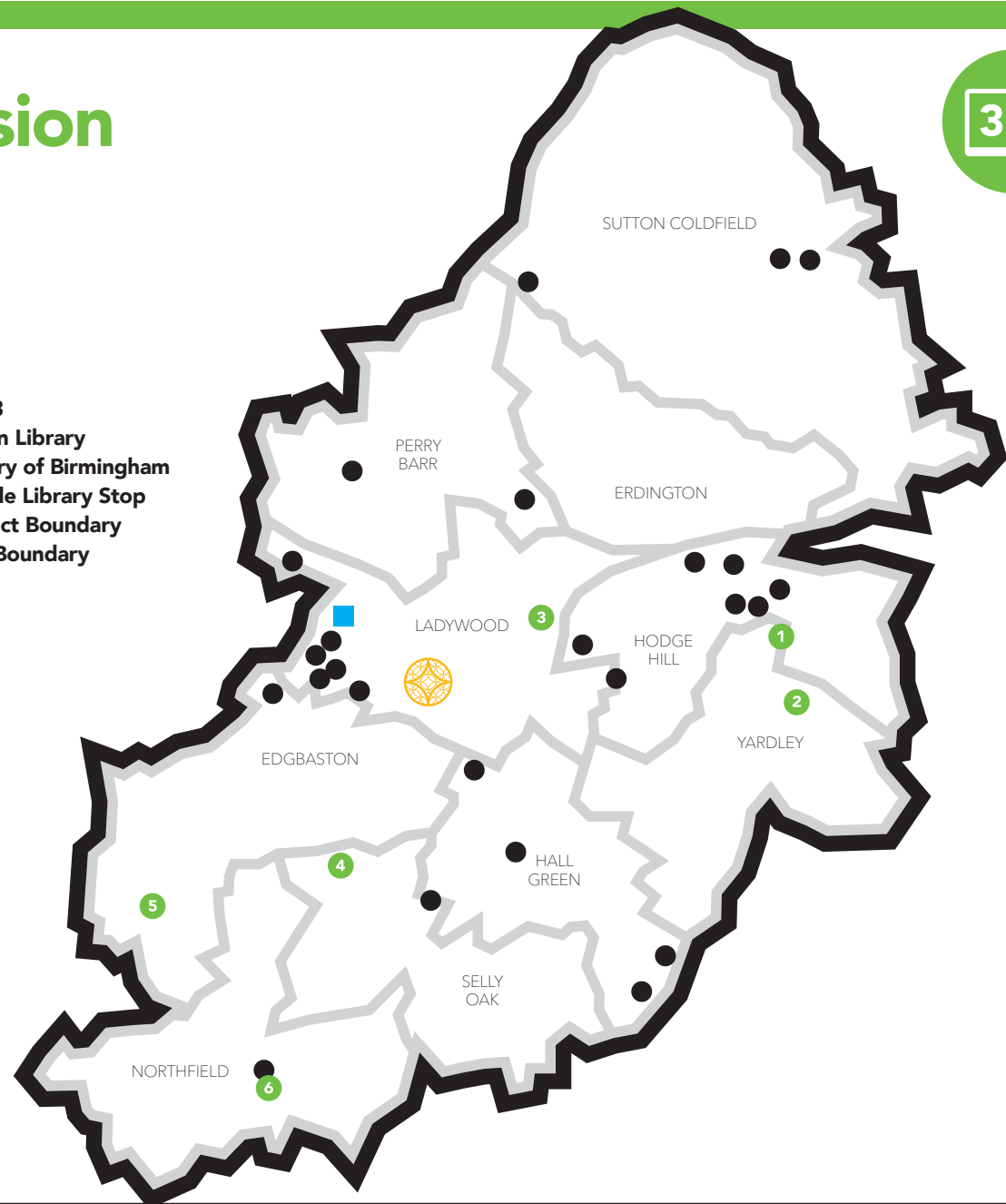- Mobile Library Stop
- District Boundary
- City Boundary

Proposed library provision
Tier 3

1. Glebe Farm Library
2. Kents Moat Library
3. (service provided by static mobile library)
4. Selly Oak Library
5. Bartley Green Library
6. West Heath Library (temporarily closed)

KEY
- 🟢 Tier 3
- 🟦 Prison Library
- 🟠 Library of Birmingham
- ⚫ Mobile Library Stop
- ⬜ District Boundary
- ⬛ City Boundary
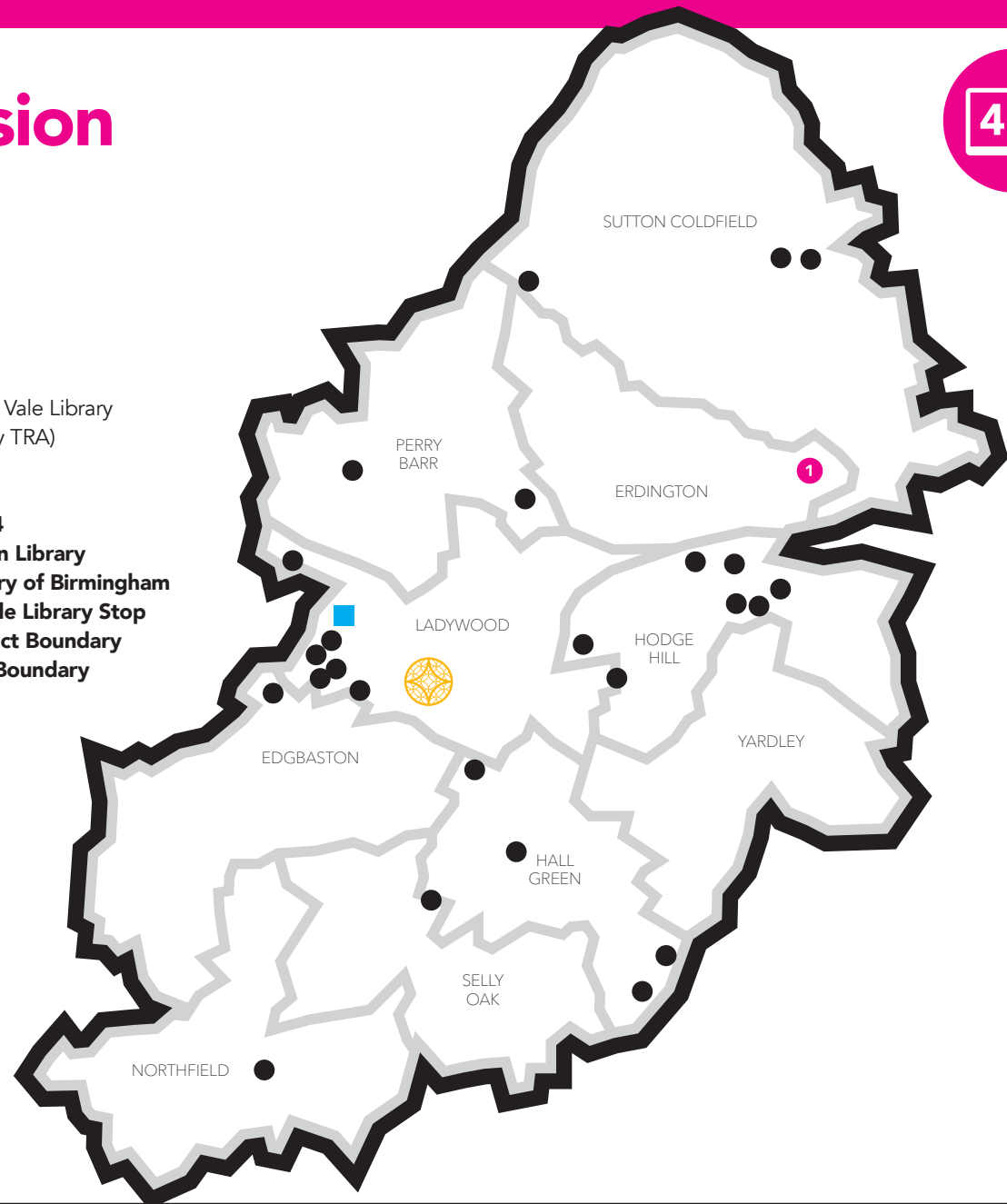
Proposed library provision
Tier 4

TIER 4

1. Castle Vale Library
(run by TRA)

KEY

- 🔴 **Tier 4**
- 🟦 **Prison Library**
- 🟠 **Library of Birmingham**
- ⚫ **Mobile Library Stop**
- ⬜ **District Boundary**
- ⬛ **City Boundary**

SUTTON COLDFIELD

PERRY BARR

ERDINGTON

LADYWOOD

HODGE HILL

YARDLEY

EDGBASTON

HALL GREEN

SELLY OAK

NORTHFIELD

Contact details

Be Heard Consultation database link to be inserted here once consultation goes live

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