

Seven questions to ask.....

1) Why doesn't the consultation document set out the risks of an "independent" Trust? Such as closures of small libraries; the end of mobile services; and all libraries becoming volunteer run.

2) Document says Trusts are "in their infancy" – please name one Trust that has not led to cuts & closures. **Why should we trust a Trust?**

3) Who will I complain to if I don't like what the Trust is doing? If the answer is 'councillors' ask what then does "independent" mean.

4) Why aren't the extra costs of the Trust proposal identified: (all coming out of library budget)

- Cost of setting up and running an organisation to run 99 libraries?
- The salaries of a whole new group of Trust managers/ fund-raisers/ lawyers?
- New branding and marketing?
- Loss of economies of scale available to KCC, loss of KCC's interdepartmental collaboration, loss of links to schools?
- Cut to library budget to pay for KCC staff to monitor targets and ensure compliance of Trust?
- Leakage of library funds to 'overheads' and other functions of Trust?

So, won't it be 'double cuts' under a trust? And once councillors are not responsible for libraries won't they see it as easy to 'squeeze the Trust' and make more cuts?

5) What will happen if the Trust fails or is unable to deliver? (eg NHS trusts)

6) Why is there no vision about what Libraries could be in future? eg Community hubs. Centres for range of services. Partnerships. Coffee/Tea.

7) Why 'fix' a KCC service which isn't broken, is "efficient and cost-effective" and has such high customer satisfaction?

If answers not satisfactory OPPOSE the Trust (in consultation response) + SUPPORT petition <http://tinyurl.com/kentlibs>

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