

Appendix 1

Libraries, our Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives for the delivery of Library Services in Shropshire

Shropshire libraries are the Council's long term investment in relationships with local communities. Libraries are more than a place to borrow books; they are neutral local spaces with an appealing offer for everyone. People will have the option of connecting with knowledge, information, support and entertainment. They will also have the opportunity to connect with each other. Public libraries are greatly liked by Shropshire people, as a brand, they have enormous potential as channels to meet the diverse needs of local communities.

Shropshire Council will create the context that enables the library services to impact positively on the lives of the people of Shropshire. But it is local communities and people that make libraries come alive.

Our Vision is to make libraries in Shropshire the heart of their communities.

Our Mission is to work in partnership with others to empower everyone to live healthy, resilient and fulfilling lives, and to provide library services that inspire people's learning and enjoyment. We will achieve this by implementing the following Strategic Objectives:

- Improving literacy and encouraging reading
- Improving and sustaining the health and well-being of Shropshire communities
- Encouraging communities to be inclusive and prosperous
- Ensuring that libraries become more enterprising and self-sustaining

Library services will continue to provide a "universal offer" developed by the Society for Chief Librarians in 2013 for library services, in physical library spaces and across the full range of digital and virtual platforms:

Universal Offers:

- Reading
- Information
- Digital
- Health
- Learning
- Culture

Libraries will serve all sections of the community, while concentrating resources to where they are most needed and can be most beneficial including:

- Both ends of the age spectrum – children and older people. Libraries will continue to play a key role in "signposting" older people to a range of community based "preventative" services, and in promoting literacy and providing activities that support children, young people and families

- Disadvantaged communities and people. Libraries will, for example, continue to support people who lack computer and internet skills and who need help to find work.

A core set of principles will underpin the future delivery of public library services:

- The provision of information and reading will remain fundamental to public library provision, but will take account of the shifts in society and the opportunities provided by technological developments.
- The importance of libraries as a community space, as a hub for people, for creativity, for the delivery of other services and for providing a wide range of support to local communities and people.
- The opportunity to work with individuals and organisations as co-creators and co-deliverers of libraries and the services delivered within them so that they best reflect the needs of local communities.