

A Vision for Sheffield's Libraries, Archives and Information Service Appendix D

The Sheffield City Council Corporate Plan 2011-2014 states that as an organisation we will focus on four priorities:

1. Standing up for Sheffield
2. Supporting and protecting communities
3. Focusing on jobs
4. Business-friendly

Libraries are and can continue to be, key community 'anchors' connecting the central governance of the city with local communities. Critical to this role is the importance of a sustainable, flexible library provision which is outward facing and inclusive to all.

The four priorities above will set the direction for Sheffield's Libraries, Archives and Information Service and will work alongside our 'vision'.

Our vision

Sheffield will be proud of its forward thinking, innovative and contemporary library service that promotes lifelong learning, digital inclusion and celebrates reading. Libraries will enable people to become informed citizens through access to information and services and encouraging participation. The Council will ensure that our library services are maintained by developing sustainable and deliverable options for the future.

How will we do this?

Promote reading and a wide range of resources

Sheffield's libraries will provide a wealth of literacy and IT resources for people of all ages and abilities. By celebrating books and reading we will enhance literacy skills across the city through provision of a variety of programmes and outreach services.

Create welcoming library spaces

Libraries will be attractive places that encourage use by a variety of groups and individuals whilst ensuring neutral, high quality public spaces, both indoor and outdoor, that respond to local community needs. They will be fit for purpose and co-located with other services where appropriate, bringing service points closer to neighbourhoods.

Celebrate Sheffield's successful centres and rich local history

Libraries will act as 'hubs' for the community shaping our successful centres; providing a focus for local civic pride, and celebrating the city's diverse history, locality and culture. A high quality Central Library offering an opportunity to showcase Sheffield will demonstrate the city's commitment to this.

Tackle poverty and social inequality

As community hubs, libraries will recognise the need for tackling poverty and social inequality, enabling access to a wealth of information to aid development and new opportunities.

Promote lifelong learning

Libraries will enable people of all ages and life experience to explore, discover and learn on their terms through access to information and learning opportunities. Children and young people will be encouraged to gain the right skills for the future and attain their potential through access to learning, reading and literacy, and usable study space.

Deliver sustainable services with a focus on 'need'

We will take a 'tailor made' approach towards a new library model which recognises the needs of individuals and groups across the city. Sustainable, flexible and modern services that can be integrated with community resources will inspire, enrich and entertain Sheffield.

Utilising social capital

We will provide greater opportunities for volunteers to work with local communities and to enhance different areas of our service. By developing a Volunteer Strategy that works alongside a Council wide policy on volunteering, the library service will continue to develop specialist projects and opportunities for individuals and groups to become involved in.

Promoting better health and wellbeing

Libraries will offer opportunities for enjoyment and relaxation, developing self-esteem, confidence and connection with others, in safe, neutral locations. By playing an active role in national programmes and promoting a love of books and reading, Sheffield's libraries will contribute locally towards the wider Public Library Health Offer.

Our Key Objectives

- Libraries that offer quality resources and space for a variety of groups and individuals;
- Cost effective and efficiently managed services that demonstrate value and quality to the community;
- Delivery of services that meet the individual and diverse needs of the local community;
- Improve literacy and skills for people of all ages and promote reading through specialist services and projects;
- Enable people to realise their potential through learning opportunities;
- Community managed and locally organised services;
- Strong partnerships and links with community organisations and local services including Advice Centres, Job Centres and other stakeholders;
- A diverse, flexible and well trained workforce, supportive of change;
- Support the health and wellbeing of local communities;
- A library provision that recognises the changing demands and expectations of its users.