# **Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public** Libraries in England 2016-2021

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## What I'm going to cover

Ambition document

Action plan

What is the Taskforce doing?

What can you do?

How can we help you?

# Not talking about how we got here

If you want to know the background, including details of the consultation process, see our website and blog.... Ambition

#### Foreword

Statement of government support for libraries through a joint foreword by:

Rob Wilson, Minister for Civil Society

Cllr Ian Stephens, Chair, Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Local Government Association

### **Executive summary**

Covers all the main messages in the document

Get people to read this and/or the Ambition flyer if they read nothing else!



# Reinforces existing usage and reach of libraries and what libraries have to offer



Figure 1: Libraries are for everyone, throughout their lives

Figure 2: Examples of targeted services which libraries provide for specific life situations

#### Long term health issues

Books and information Meeting spaces for groups

Health

#### **Disability support**

Access to equipment and facilities Accessible spaces Information resources

#### Arriving in a new place

Local community information

Citizenship test support

English language classes



#### **Urgent needs**

Access to legal services Signpost to food banks Emergency information

#### Mental and wider health issues

Reading Well : Books on Prescription Autism and dementia-friendly libraries Safe and inclusive spaces

#### Libraries deliver

targeted services for specific life situations

#### Looking for work or starting a business

Job clubs and CV support Start-up business support Shared work spaces



#### Lacking digital skills and access

Digital skills training Free WiFi and computers E-resources

#### Context

Reinforces existing usage and reach of libraries and what libraries have to offer

Describes the legal position (Foreword confirms DCMS intention to use their superintendence powers under 1964 Act)

Outlines the local government funding constraints

#### Vision

Libraries and the people working in them change lives:

Promoting **enjoyment** in reading and other cultural and creative activities

Raising **aspirations** and building **skills** so people can achieve their full potential

Actively sharing **information**, encouraging people to engage with, co-create and learn from each other

Providing trusted and practical **support** and advice to those who need it

#### Vision

If our ambitions are achieved, describes what: Individuals

- Communities
- Public services and other partners
- Library services
- will see, feel and do in 2021

Reinforces the importance of following ethical principles of librarianship in delivery of library services

## **Outcomes libraries deliver**

Cultural and creative enrichment

Increased reading and literacy

Improved digital access and literacy

Helping everyone achieve their full potential

Healthier and happier lives

Greater prosperity

Stronger, more resilient communities

Figure 3: Library services deliver against 7 Outcomes



224.6 million visits in 2014-15. More than visits to Premier League football games, the cinema and the top 10 UK tourist attractions combined

#### **Outcomes libraries deliver**

For each outcome, it describes:

The challenges we are responding to

Examples of existing good practice

What success would look like in 2021

Initial ideas on progress indicators

#### How we'll achieve this

Emphasises the importance at local level of:

- Strong local leadership
- Strategic planning, using common principles
- Cross-boundary working and partnerships
- Co-creating services with the community
- Exploring all options to achieve resilient services

Developing the library workforce

### How we'll achieve this

Describes the role of the Taskforce, including:

- Supporting and enhancing local leadership
- Providing guidance / frameworks / common principles to inform local action
- Raising awareness / making the case for libraries
- Producing shared assets (eg. for advocacy)
- Sharing and promoting good practice
- Addressing difficult issues once (eg. data)

## **Action Plan**

## **Action Plan: Taskforce**

Make the case for investment in libraries: advocacy

- Raise public awareness of what libraries offer
- Identify and showcase good practice and support innovation
- Support workforce development
- Support development of the digital offer
- Monitor and report on progress

## **Action Plan: Challenges**

Challenges to central and local government and library services include:

Acknowledge and promote the role libraries play

- Think 'Libraries First'
- Use the guidance the Taskforce produces
- Identify, share and adopt good practice

Explore and exploit all options before making service reductions

# What is the Taskforce doing?

## **Promotion of Ambition**

Letters (and hard copy documents) sent to local authority leaders, library portfolio holders, chief executives, heads of library services

Letters gone to all Ministers / MPs / Lords

Articles being placed in local authority and relevant partner publications

Working to get messages out to other sectors (eg. to health colleagues)

## **Action Plan: Taskforce**

Some things are already underway including:

- £4m Libraries: Opportunities for Everyone Fund
- Support to explore and spin out to a mutual
- Community-managed library research
- Developing skills strategy
- Sharing communication assets

## What can you do?

## What can you do?

Be an ambassador for library services

Promote Ambition through your networks. Use it as a prompt to start discussions / build stronger partnerships within your organisation and with partners

Contribute to delivery of the Taskforce actions

Deliver on the Challenges we've set you (if applicable)

## How can we help you?

#### Tell us how can we help you...

...to be ambassadors for Ambition and library services with colleagues, partners, the public?

...and your organisation to share and adopt good practice and use the guidance we produce?

...overcome barriers and deliver on the Challenges we've set (if applicable)?

# **Any Questions?**

Email: librariestaskforce@culture.gov.uk

GOV.UK: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/libraries-taskforce">https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/libraries-taskforce</a>

Blog: <u>librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk</u>

Twitter: @LibTaskforce #LibraryAmbition

Libraries Deliver: Ambition https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/libraries-deliverambition-for-public-libraries-in-england-2016-to-2021