Your Library – Your View

Draft Library Service Strategy 2020-2025 and proposed delivery model

WIRRAL

THE LIBRARY SERVICE

The Library Service is consulting on the proposals outlined in the Library Strategy 2020-2025 (Draft) and model.

These proposals are an innovative solution, and designed to deliver a modern and sustainable service that meets the needs of our differing communities across Wirral with available resources.

OUR VISION

"…….is to provide first-rate reading, digital, learning and cultural opportunities for our residents, creating vibrant community hubs to inspire and enrich our residents' lives and enhance community belonging and wellbeing"

OUR PRIORITIES

A set of four key priorities underpin the draft strategy and are designed to ensure a modern and sustainable library service that meets the needs of different communities across Wirral,
whilst providing library services that address increased service take-up in areas of greatest need by providing attractive and relevant facilities and services.

We will prioritise our resources and expertise to achieve four key outcomes:

- Reading - deliver resources and activities to build literacy skills at all levels and ages and promote a love of reading within libraries, community settings and via online platforms

- Information and Digital - support digital skills learning and deliver activities and resources to ensure all residents have access to quality information and digital services

- Culture and Creativity - support an increase in cultural and creative experiences, bringing culture to communities and inspire residents to connect with culture

- Health and Wellbeing - provide access to trusted health information and resources and will support the development of connected communities to improve wellbeing

LIBRARY DELIVERY MODELS

- Maintaining the current provision "as is" is not a viable or sustainable option if we want to be able to deliver on the ambitions set out in our Library Service Strategy 2020-2025 to reduce inequalities and provide a needs-based service across the Borough.

- The new library model proposes a programme of work with local residents and stakeholders to co-design and co-deliver a bespoke offer for each neighbourhood area making the best use of available Council and community assets to meet local needs.

- Three tier approach (Central, Neighbourhood, and Community) seeks to maximise delivery outcomes and the needs of residents with a focus on the four key priorities, and will be supported by our virtual library and outreach service.

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CENTRAL LIBRARY

- Flagship site attracting visitors from both inside and outside of the borough, with an enhanced offer

- Community location for Birkenhead residents, with access to a range of facilities and services

- Linked with our Regeneration ambitions in Birkenhead Town Centre

- A modern building with modern amenities

NEIGHBOURHOOD LIBRARIES

- Driven by key locations of need, serving as multi-purpose spaces, to meet the needs of local-residents

- Focused on striving to achieve all four key priorities of the Library Strategy

- Council led, with a clear, outcome focused approach, providing support & guidance to tackle wider inequalities

- Co-location opportunities explored

COMMUNITY: Community Libraries/Hub

- Co-located with appropriate partners in the area, relocation if appropriate

- Focusing on engagement with community residents, to determine best options for each community

- Targeted approach taken to the strategy priorities

- Use of outreach service and key partnerships to deliver goals and compliment offer

- Supported by Council library staff

COMMUNITY: Community Managed Library

- Community led and delivered libraries, run by the community for the community

- Use of volunteer co-ordination roles, working across several partnerships to support volunteering

- Access to Council library staff and other Council services for advice, guidance and expertise as agree

- Access to library and other appropriate systems

- Provide opportunities via the Council's "Connective Capital"

- Support with funding applications led by the CML

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VIRTUAL LIBRARY & OUTREACH SERVICE

- Our virtual library is an accessible and convenient service meeting modern needs, available 24/7 and provides an on-line space to deliver library services

- Our outreach service will reach out to residents whose library needs are greatest, via the Home Reader Service and through events and activities in community settings and schools