REALISING
AMBITION &
OPPORTUNITY

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

SLiC
Scottish Library &
Information Council

COSLA

CarnegieUK
TRUST
CHANGING MINDS • CHANGING LIVES

The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Ambition & Opportunity: A Strategy for Public Libraries in Scotland 2015-2020 was launched in June 2015 to address the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century. Since then, over £2.3 million has been invested in libraries to fund initiatives that meet the aims of this ambitious strategy.

Public libraries attract over 40 million visitors each year, including virtual visitors, making them the most popular civic resource delivered by local government. Libraries remain a vital part of Scottish culture, but the way people use them is changing and a key aim of the strategy is to ensure library services continue to adapt to what local communities need. People still borrow books, however increasing numbers use their local library as a space to learn, to access digital information and to take part in creative activities.

The initiatives highlighted in this brochure illustrate the positive focus and energy which the strategy has brought to the library community. Furthermore, it has enabled key partners and stakeholders to engage with the library sector to support its goals.

Ambition and Opportunity sets out a clear direction for public libraries in Scotland. Reflecting on this first year and what has been achieved indicates that the full realisation of the strategy will be transformational.

This brochure folds out to a poster, which highlights key investments and projects so that it can be displayed.

READING, LITERACY AND LEARNING

Promoting reading and access to information is at the heart of what libraries do. Countless projects have taken place to support this area, including a Scottish Reading Strategy to deliver a consistent approach to reading promotion.

READiscover
YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

READiscover
For the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016, libraries encouraged adults and young people to discover science fiction and technology books, such as 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?' by Philip K Dick and William Golding's 'The Spire'.

Read, Write, Count
Libraries took a lead role in the Scottish Government's initiative to encourage parental involvement in learning, with funding provided for books, storytelling sessions and author visits. Read, Write, Count packs were also distributed via libraries, helping to support parents in their child's education.

Book Week Scotland
Existing initiatives are vital to the delivery of the strategy, demonstrated by the 4th national celebration of books in November 2015, which involved free book giveaways and 117 different author events, reaching over 5,500 people and generating over 11,000 new memberships.

#LovetoRead

Love to Read
Launched by the BBC in 2016, Love to Read encourages everyone to have their say about the books they love. As partners in this national campaign, Scotland's public libraries have already hosted a numbers of events, including author visits and special book clubs. Libraries encouraged the public to vote for Scotland's Favourite Book, which will be announced in a BBC TV programme in October.

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Situated in the heart of local communities, libraries are well-placed to increase digital participation through supported access to the internet.

WiFi
SLIC led the national drive to deliver WiFi provision in all of Scotland's public libraries. Funding from the Scottish Government's Public Wireless Programme has helped to improve the service, with 96% of libraries now WiFi enabled. Users can bring their own devices and take advantage of the extensive range of library services now delivered online.

PRINT3D @THELIBRARY

3D printers
Thanks to funding from the Scottish Government digital participation programme, SLIC has introduced 3D printers to every library service in Scotland, opening up a whole new world of creativity and digital learning. It has enabled children to take part in BBC Scotland's Build It Scotland initiative through Minecraft clubs in libraries.

CULTURE & CREATIVITY

Libraries are places of culture and creativity. A trip to the library can inspire people in many different ways - through books, film and TV, music and events.

Film Education in libraries
Creative Scotland allocated £190,000 to fund seven projects to develop creative film learning in libraries. These projects will improve the provision of film and moving image education across Scotland.

Festival of Architecture 2016
One of the many initiatives which public libraries in Scotland undertook as part of the 2016 Festival of Architecture was to partner with Publishing Scotland with an art competition for children and young people. Libraries showcased Scottish design and creativity through a series of workshops, reading promotions and competitions.

BBC Scotland partnership
BBC Scotland and SLIC have signed a five-year strategic partnership which will enable libraries to reach out to a wider audience through joint initiatives such as Build It Scotland, Love to Read and Weather Watchers. While Build It Scotland focuses on engaging children in digital design, Love to Read celebrates reading for pleasure. Through Weather Watchers, library members can also discuss the nation's favourite topic.

SOCIAL WELLBEING

All library services in Scotland offer communities a friendly and welcoming space to meet, hosting a wide range of events and groups, from author events, book clubs, knitting groups, local history activity and bibliotherapy sessions. The library is the place where people choose to meet.

Health matters
All public libraries are taking part in Share the Vision, a UK-wide programme, relaunched in 2016, to support visually impaired people. A number of libraries work with local NHS partners to supply hearing aid batteries to local people, making it easier for people to access the health support they need. Libraries have also started to work towards being accredited as dementia-friendly, with a few services already having achieved this accolade.

Macmillan Cancer
Macmillan Cancer has partnered with a number of library services since the strategy was launched to support people affected by cancer. This award-winning partnership means people can access information and support in a trusted community space close to where they live.

EXCELLENT PUBLIC SERVICES

Scotland's public libraries deliver a consistently high standard of service. They feature positively in the Scottish Household survey and in 2015, attracted a footfall of over 27 million and over 13 million online visitors.

Every Child a Library Member
During 2015/16, a pilot programme, Every Child a Library Member was delivered to ensure that every child has equal access to books from birth and the same chance to foster a love of reading from an early age. The Robert Gordon University has undertaken an evaluation of the pilot to inform how the initiative is taken forward as part of the strategy.

Smarter Procurement
A number of library services across the country have joined forces to create the Scottish Consortium of Public Libraries (SCoPL). This has seen joint procurement of Library Management Systems and will see further efficiencies through better deals on resources, including ebooks and digital magazines.

TNT
Training in New Technologies (TNT) has been redeveloped in partnership with City of Glasgow College. Now that libraries have been WiFi enabled, staff are being asked to support members of the public with the range of mobile devices which are brought into libraries. TNT provides staff with the knowledge and confidence to assist users.

How Good is Our Public Library Service?
This assessment tool is being rolled out across Scotland with Aberdeen City, Live Borders and Moray Council all having successfully completed the process.

Digital Xtra Training
Digital Xtra funding has been secured to train library staff across Scotland to allow them to deliver coding sessions to children and young people.

ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Scottish libraries help improve the economic wellbeing of communities through a number of innovative schemes.

Employability hubs
Creating a one-stop shop for jobseekers, these are organised with partner agencies, offering a range of services from benefits advice to back-to-work training.

Digital Maker Spaces
Library services are starting to support coding awareness in the community through the introduction of digital maker spaces. Programmed activity, delivered in partnership with key agencies, support STEM learning and upskilling of young people to widen employment opportunities.