REALISING AMBITION & OPPORTUNITY

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS
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**

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.

**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.

**#LovetoRead**

**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.

**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.

**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.