Chair's Foreword

It has been a privilege to lead the Board over the past three years and to see SLIC’s impact on policy and practice in libraries in and beyond Scotland.
The Scottish Government’s Public Library Improvement Fund (PLIF) was also administered by SLIC, consisting of projects which will feed into and support the strategic aims of Ambition and Opportunity.

All these initiatives are demonstrating that Ambition and Opportunity is delivering and having a real and positive impact on communities in Scotland.

Tremendous progress has been made on the public libraries front, demonstrating the hard work and commitment of the SLIC team. But it doesn’t end there.

SLIC’s membership is broader than just public libraries, with members also coming from higher education, further education and special interest libraries. To that end, a number of events have been held throughout the year, such as the Information Literacy Symposium and the SLIC Annual Showcase, supporting the whole membership.

To reflect the breadth of SLIC’s membership and its role, we have created a new strapline, ‘Enriching lives through libraries’. Libraries play a powerful role in society. They help people to explore, develop and connect and SLIC’s role is to ensure the role of libraries remains relevant and valuable in modern times. Through funding, research, advice and skills development, libraries in all sectors are supported to drive innovation to deliver benefits to society.

As an organisation, SLIC has evolved and grown over the years to support the developing needs of the library community in Scotland. As I prepare to step down as Chair and hand the role to new talent, I would like to thank both the members of the SLIC Board and the team in the SLIC office for their support during my time as Chair. It has been a privilege to lead the Board over the past three years and to see SLIC’s impact on policy and practice in libraries in and beyond Scotland. None of this would be possible without the dedicated team who continue to strive for what’s best for Scotland’s libraries. I wish the SLIC team and Board continued success in the future.

Gordon Hunt
Chair, SLIC Board
We advocate on behalf of all our membership libraries to government, funding bodies, elected members, users and potential users. Our role is to influence and shape opinion about the powerful role of libraries.

Realising Ambition & Opportunity
To mark the first year of the public library strategy, SLIC brought together over 90 sector leaders, policy makers and librarians at an event at Hamilton Townhouse. Delivered in partnership with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture, the event was a showcase of progress delivered for the strategy. Inspiring and creative presentations were delivered by artist and illustrator Mitch Miller and Macmillan @GlasgowLibraries, as well as a keynote speech from Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, during which she said, “libraries are communal living rooms”.

By the end of the financial year 2016/17, over £1.3 million had been invested by stakeholders and partners to support the aims of the strategy, a clear sign of the commitment to libraries in Scotland and of their value to communities.

School library advocacy
Over the course of the year, we maintained an open dialogue with the Scottish Government on the future development of school libraries. We also provided a response to a Scottish Parliament committee, outlining the importance of the role of the library within the school environment.

We used our research, ‘The Impact of School Libraries on Learning’, conducted by the Robert Gordon University (RGU), which found that school libraries can support higher education attainment levels.

We stated our support for a range of options to support the learning and education needs of children and young people to remove inequalities, raise attainment and ensure young people have equal access to books and other resources.

School libraries can support higher education attainment levels."

National advocacy
Throughout the year, we have represented Scottish libraries on several national strategic groups, including the Scottish Government’s Creative Industries Advisory Group; the 2017 Year of History, Heritage & Archaeology Working Group; and the First Minister’s Reading Challenge Advisory group.

We regularly work in partnership with a range of organisations to reinforce the value of the role of libraries. Our key partners include Carnegie UK Trust, BBC Scotland, the Scottish Book Trust, National Library of Scotland, Digital Xtra, The Reading Agency, Young Scot and the British Library.

We regularly work in partnership with a range of organisations to reinforce the value of the role of libraries."

Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

"Libraries are communal living rooms.

£1.3 million

Highlights"
How Good Is Our Public Library Service?
The How Good is Our Public Library Service? (HGIOPLS) assessment tool was refreshed to reflect the national strategy, Ambition and Opportunity: A Strategy for Public Libraries in Scotland 2015-2020.

HGIOPLS helps public libraries demonstrate the quality of their services and the impact they have on communities.

The revised version takes into account the changing environment in which public libraries operate, and provides a quality assurance tool to help libraries meet their service obligations in fiscally challenging times. An accompanying toolkit also provides libraries with templates to help with the self-evaluation assessment process.

As part of the update, we worked with Quality Scotland to design and implement refresher training for library staff.

How Good Is Our Public Library Service?

Every Child A Library Member

During 2016, £80,000 was awarded to 24 local authorities through the Public Library Improvement Fund (PLIF) to trial different ways of making Every Child A Library Member (ECALM) by providing automatic library membership to children. Local authorities used a range of approaches to register children as library members at birth, early years or primary school.

To evaluate the pilot and identify the most effective approach, we commissioned the Robert Gordon University (RGU) to examine the various methods used by local authorities.

The recommendations of the RGU report have paved the way for a national ECALM programme and the authors of the report noted that the public library sector has been extremely creative with its approach to engaging children with their libraries.

Every Child A Library Member

Health projects in libraries

In December 2016, we commissioned research company, Blake Stevenson to evaluate health-related projects that had received an award from the Public Library Improvement Fund (PLIF).

The national public library strategy aims to ensure libraries promote social wellbeing and tackle social isolation, inequality and ill health. We were keen to identify project delivery models that most effectively meet these aims.

Ten PLIF projects were evaluated in the research. Among the key findings, researchers identified that with relatively small investment, the projects had achieved positive outcomes for libraries, staff and library users. In addition, the projects were effective in attracting new members, forming new partnerships and providing library staff with new skills and confidence.

The ‘Public Library Improvement Fund: Evaluation of health-related projects’ report is online at scottishlibraries.org.

Progress On Our Strategic Objectives:

STANDARDS

The public library sector has been extremely creative with its approach to engaging children with their libraries.

PLIF projects were effective in attracting new members, forming new partnerships and providing library staff with new skills and confidence.
Progress On Our Strategic Objectives:

**INNOVATION**

**Film Education in Libraries**
Creative Scotland awarded SLIC a grant of £189,000 to support the delivery of six pioneering film clubs in libraries across Scotland.

We appointed a project manager to support the delivery of the films clubs at library services in Edinburgh, Falkirk, Midlothian, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire and the Western Isles. The clubs have been taking place in rural, remote and inner-city settings, targeting children, older people and young offenders, offering communities the chance to learn about film and to enjoy a broader cultural experience.

Initial feedback from those who have attended screenings has been extremely positive and library staff are benefiting from training associated with the project.

**Code Clubs**
Libraries across Scotland launched innovative new Code Clubs to inspire the country's next generation of coding experts. Aimed at 9-11-year-olds, Code Club gives young people the opportunity to learn a wide variety of digital skills in a fun environment. Children can learn how to create digital games, build animations and even develop websites.

This pioneering and innovative project was made possible by a £46,500 grant from the Scottish Government Digital Skills Business Excellence Partnership, administered by DigitalXtra. Working with the UK-wide charity, Code Club, we delivered training to over 150 public library staff to enable them to host and lead the clubs.

Code Club has proved extremely popular, with waiting lists at many of the 56 clubs now taking place across Scotland.

**Free WiFi in libraries**
WiFi is now available in all public libraries in Scotland, thanks to a £400,000 grant from the Scottish Government’s Public Wireless Programme.

**3D Printers**
Following the award of £76,000 from the Scottish Government Digital Participation Team in March 2016, we appointed a project manager to support the delivery of 3D printers to all 32 library services in Scotland during 2016/17. Our project manager worked with library services to identify and procure the most suitable kit and to deliver a programme of training. All 32 library services have now appointed a dedicated 3D Printing Champion to support a range of innovative 3D print projects.

**Hackathon**
In October 2016, working in partnership with Carnegie UK Trust, we hosted Scotland’s first public library focused hackathon aimed at 'reimagining the role and functions of the public library'.

The four-day Future Libraries Hackathon brought together multi-disciplinary teams of students, graduates, entrepreneurs and mentors to create ideas and technical prototypes of new products or services that will ensure libraries remain relevant and sustainable.
The hackathon was a ground-breaking and inspirational event which has opened lots of new possibilities to explore. Carnegie UK Trust has published a full report highlighting the learnings and insight from the event. The report is online at carnegieuktrust.org.uk

**Read, Write, Count**

We continue to work closely with the Scottish Government on Read, Write, Count to promote these skills in everyday life and to facilitate the use of public libraries to support delivery of the initiative. During 2016/17, we received further funding of £108,000 to provide Read, Write, Count book packs and specially produced book stands to libraries. The ongoing support package means that children in primary 1, 2 and 3 now receive a free bag filled with books, counting games and writing materials to support learning at home and to encourages families to get involved in their child's learning.
We continued to work with a range of partners throughout 2016/17, including the Scottish Confederation of University and Research Libraries (SCURL), Scottish Book Trust, the College Development Network and National Library of Scotland.

**BBC Scotland**

We signed an exciting new strategic partnership agreement with BBC Scotland which will help deliver enhanced services in libraries.

The agreement will see various BBC Scotland divisions working with public libraries to deliver more information, learning and creative opportunities for people of all ages. Under the partnership agreement, we will aim to deliver two key initiatives per year. In 2016, these were Build It Scotland and Love to Read.

Through Build It Scotland, young people were invited to help build a virtual map of Scotland’s landmarks through various digital software programmes, including Minecraft, Tinkercad and SketchUp.

Love to Read, which involved all 32 public library services, celebrated reading for pleasure and aimed to inspire more people to develop a love for books and reading. The campaign culminated in a Love to Read weekend in libraries on 4th-6th November 2016, and three-hour outside broadcasts took place from Renfrewshire and Orkney Libraries.

**Book Week Scotland**

We have supported Book Week Scotland for several years and 2016/17 was no exception.

We supplied funding for over 100 author events in libraries for this annual national celebration of books and reading. This year, for the first time, our member libraries from further education colleges applied for funding to host author events. Forth Valley College, Glasgow Clyde College, Perth College UHI and West Lothian College hosted events with authors Christopher Brookmyre, Dr Scott Jeffery and illustrator Tom Foster.

**Design a Book Jacket competition**

To encourage artists of the future in the 2016 Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, we teamed up with Publishing Scotland to launch Design a Book Jacket, a national art competition for children and young people aged between 5 and 18 to design an original cover for their favourite Scottish book.

Over 400 creative entries were received from across Scotland, meaning the judging panel had some tough decisions to make.

Winners were selected from three age categories and their work was presented at the ‘Design by the Book’ exhibition, presented by Publishing Scotland at Edinburgh Castle during Book Week Scotland 2016. The three winners also received gift vouchers donated by Waterstones.
Progress On Our Strategic Objectives:

**FUNDING**

**Innovation and Development Fund**
We awarded over £17,000 to libraries at further and higher education institutions to support creativity and innovation in the service.

Forth Valley College, Perth College UHI and the University of the West of Scotland submitted successful bids for projects to support 3D printing in student learning labs, a study of social media use in the library sector and a film project to promote the learning journey between students and the library.

**Public Library Improvement Fund**
Twenty-two projects at public libraries across Scotland received a share of the £450,000 PLIF in 2016/17. A total of 48 bids were received.

With the national public library strategy now in place, every bid must demonstrate how it will meet the aims of the strategy. In 2016, awards were given to projects which focused on economic wellbeing, digital inclusion and reading, literacy and learning.

A few of the winning bids were:

- **Read the Past, Imagine the Future**: a national reading initiative linked to the 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology
- **Tablet Tasters**: an initiative to encourage young people to become more confident using Fife Libraries
- **Edinburgh Explorers**: a project to encourage children to use library resources to explore the city

**Members funding newsletter**
To help our members source relevant funding opportunities, we have introduced a funding newsletter to share a list of potential sources of funding for library services. We distribute this to member organisations on a monthly basis.
Welcome to APLS
During 2016/17, we worked with public library services across Scotland to support the establishment of the Association of Public Libraries in Scotland (APLS). We welcome this new body, which provides the public library community with a body similar to those in the higher (SCURL) and further (College Development Network) education sectors.

New SLIC website & social media
We invested in an upgrade of our website to improve functionality, optimise it for use across all devices and applied some design changes.

We have also increased our social network, with an increased following on Twitter and the introduction of a number of new platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and LinkedIn.

SLIC in the press
We’ve had an increased focus on communications, meaning more of the projects we support have made the headlines. We have generated media coverage for projects that received support from the Public Library Improvement Fund and Innovation and Development Fund, as well as the launch of Code Club. We also contributed to The Scotsman 200 column, an editorial platform to mark the newspaper’s 200th anniversary.
SLIC BOARD

Trustees
Gordon Hunt, Chair
Helen Durndell, Vice Chair [Resigned 4 November 2016]
Dilys Young, Vice Chair [Appointed 4 November 2016]
Moira Methven, Company Secretary [Resigned 4 November 2016]
Ken McKinlay, Company Secretary [Appointed 4 November 2016]

Carole Gray, (Ex Officio CDN 4 November 2016)
John Scally, (Ex Officio NLS 4 November 2016)
Alison Stevenson, (Ex Officio SCURL 4 November 2016)
Fiona Clark, (Ex Officio APLS 4 November 2016)
Donald McLean
Abigail Mawhirt
Fiona Dakers
Peter Reid
Ann Wales