

LIBRARY STRATEGY 2025- 2030





STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND VISION

PURPOSE

VISION

CONTEXT

Why this Strategy (2025–2030)

Sets a five-year direction for inclusive, innovative and accessible libraries - presented to Scrutiny as the enabling framework for service planning, investment and outcomes.

Vision for Community Hubs

Libraries as dynamic spaces for learning, wellbeing, creativity, digital access and community connection - supporting residents of all ages, backgrounds, languages and abilities.

Strategic & statutory alignment

Grounded in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, and MCC Community & Corporate Plan 2022–28 - supporting standards, compliance and sustainable delivery.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND THEMES

Core Strategic Themes Driving Library Service Delivery

CORE STRATEGIC THEMES



Reading & Literacy

Promotes reading across all ages, supporting attainment, wellbeing, and growth through a Reading Journey from early years to adulthood.



Digital Inclusion

Access to connectivity, devices, and skills support - reducing barriers linked to age, income, disability, or rural isolation.



Community Wellbeing

Safe, welcoming spaces that reduce loneliness, support mental health, and build connection through activities and volunteering.



Cultural & Creative

Venues for cultural events, Welsh language promotion, creative expression, and lifelong learning opportunities.



Partnership & Innovation

Improves sustainability through collaboration with Friends groups, schools, health services, and national bodies.



Strategic Alignment

Converts high-level ambitions into practical, locally responsive priorities aligned with national policy expectations.



WPLS ALIGNMENT

Strategy strengthens compliance with Welsh standards

STRATEGY MEETS WPLS

Assurance of statutory compliance

How the Strategy strengthens WPLS performance

- Directly aligns service priorities to the WPLS quality framework (access, staffing, hours, digital, reading, community).
- Embeds literacy, lifelong learning, digital inclusion, and community connectivity at the core of delivery.
- Supports evidence-based reporting through clear outcomes monitorable via WPLS annual returns (use, participation, access, satisfaction).
- Strengthens resilience by addressing known pressures: changing needs, rising digital demand, and resource constraints.



CONSULTATION AND EVIDENCE BASE

EVIDENCE & ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder consultation

Friends groups across Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow (including Reading Garden) and Monmouth shaped priorities on accessibility, programming, community space and volunteering.

Local evidence base

Service performance data, user feedback and benchmarking against Welsh Public Library Standards provide a consistent, measurable foundation.

Scrutiny assurance

The five-year Strategy is evidence-led and locally informed, improving credibility, responsiveness and deliverability.



IMPLEMENTATION & NEXT STEPS

KEY OVERSIGHT PRIORITIES

Scrutiny's focus for delivery

- **Strategic fit:** alignment with **WPLS**, statutory duties*, and Council wellbeing/equality objectives
- **Performance & insight:** monitoring via **WPLS reporting**, KPIs, and user/stakeholder feedback
- **Resources:** affordability, partnerships, and external funding in a constrained budget context
- **Assurance:** constructive challenge, endorsement, and ongoing oversight through updates over five years

*Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964