**FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY SERVICE**

 **STRATEGIC AIMS OBJECTIVES**

* Support pre-school literacy and learning in partnership, including delivering the Bookstart scheme
* Encourage greater connectivity with schools and promote the Summer Reading Challenge
* Support reading groups, including through offering space for them to meet
* Make effective links with adult literacy programmes

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Providing access to reliable and relevant information and advice, making the most of new technology.

Contributing to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Supporting learning, study and skills development.

Improve digital services and inclusion.

Inspiring a culture of reading and supporting literacy actively promoting, developing and encouraging reading for all ages and abilities.

* Develop and strengthen partnerships with arts and culture organisations and community groups
* Develop the local history service linking with archives, museums and local interest groups
* Showcase local artists and makers’ work
* Promote the ‘give and take’ donations scheme
* Develop a ‘friends of the library’ network to fundraise, increase volunteering and engage local communities
* Streamline back office functions and make the most effective use of new technology
* Demonstrate impacts and outcomes of the library service
* Develop partnerships with advice services to deliver services relevant to the local area
* Develop a consistent core advice and signposting offer delivered by trained staff with common resources
* Utilise self-service technology to offer wider functionality to support the shift to digital transactions

**VISION**

To provide a vibrant and sustainable library service relevant to the needs of those who live, work and study in Reading which:

* Involves and engages its communities in developing and delivering the service
* Provides safe spaces which are welcoming to all for study, leisure and learning
* Embraces new technology and looks to the future
* Supports the Council’s wider objectives of narrowing the gaps in health and wellbeing outcomes across the town
* Seeks to add value through innovative partnerships
* Offers excellent customer service, and is responsive and efficient
* Deveop partnerships to develop the library as a space where people can explore neew technologies
* Promote digital inclusion through the provision of public access IT, wifi and support to develop skills
* Develop the Library Service’s online offer
* Increase and improve digital marketing of the library offer

Make best use of resources

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* Support public health promotion activities and provide health information
* Encourage community involvement in service development
* Develop libraries as community hubs, increasing access in and out of hours and providing space for activities
* Support patients libraries in local hospitals through the housebound service
* Promote volunteering and value volunteers offering skills development and accreditation
* Align stock offer with local school and adult learning curricula
* Promote libraries as a venue for education and training activity
* Work with partners to develop homework clubs

Providing opportunities for our communities to engage in diverse cultural activities and connect to our local heritage.