

Securing the future of Scotland's libraries

We envision a Scotland where:

Financed

We invest in communities by investing in libraries

We recognise that capital investment in modern, progressive libraries reverses any trending decline in usage and factor this into any future growth or investment deals with regions or local authorities

Libraries are supported to be successful

We establish a national policy framework that positions public libraries as essential, universally accessible community infrastructure capable of addressing key societal challenges, by implementing a coordinated financial strategy that ensures a consistent minimum level of investment across all of Scotland's library services

Fairer

An excellent library service is defined

Establish a minimum universal standard for community library provision, as outlined in the Local Government (Scotland) Act (1973), with ambitious yet realistic targets for implementation

Libraries are recognised for the range of public services they support

Foster cross-sectoral collaboration with the educational, health, and social sectors by embedding the multiple roles of public libraries in overarching policy goals and legislation

Future

Our libraries are equipped with the tools they need

Libraries help to bridge a poverty-related digital divide, so it's crucial they remain up to date with access to computers, printing services, and fast, reliable Wi-Fi. We envision a Scotland where we have a minimum standard of digital access across the country, recognising libraries as essential hubs for digital inclusion, innovation, and data literacy

The extensive network of physical libraries in Scotland is leveraged

Tap into their potential to lay the groundwork for a more sustainable Scotland. This would involve initiatives to enhance capacity through funding, certification programmes and training, and empowering libraries to become hubs for sustainability. This can help support wider strategies, for example Net Zero Cities