

5th December 2014

Dear Councillor Smith,

Proposed budget cuts

CILIPS is the Scottish arm of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, the leading professional body for librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers.

We understand that a Council meeting scheduled for 18th December will take a decision on budget cuts affecting High Life Highland library services.

We recognise the difficult choices facing all Councils as a result of significant financial pressures but would urge that before any final decision is taken, careful consideration is given to what will be lost.

CILIPS supports the view confirmed by recent Scottish Government researchⁱ that professionally delivered, high quality and relevant library services are essential to the wellbeing of communities. That research found a strong link between library services and education, promotion of literacy and social inclusion. More recently, the Culture Minister emphasised the importance of libraries as key partners in delivery of the Scottish Government's ambitions for digital participation.ⁱⁱ

We ask that you remain mindful of the valuable role carried out by our members within High Life Highland library services, and the potential impact of budget cuts on the local communities served by them as you consider the budget options.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Kearney
Director
CILIP in Scotland

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- ⁱ <http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/getattachment/250ba850-1bca-4038-8bc3-070f20ef23d2/Speaking-Volumes.aspx>
ii. <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Libraries-at-heart-of-digital-inclusion-12c2.aspx>