



Dear Candidate,

If elected in May, we ask that you:

1. Support our public libraries and the vital contribution they make to community cohesion, social and economic wellbeing, digital skills and literacy.
2. Support professionally staffed school libraries and recognise their value to education and the raising attainment agenda.

Here are some of the reasons why you should support libraries and ensure they are the driving forces in our communities:

<p><b>Public Libraries are popular</b></p>  <p><b>LIBRARY</b> <b>28 MILLION VISITS A YEAR</b></p> <p>60% of the country use them and they welcome 28 million visits a year - 14 times more than Scotland's top level professional football matches.</p>	<p><b>20 million books</b></p>  <p>are borrowed every year, more than are sold.</p>	<p><b>Public Libraries are excellent value</b></p>  <p>Research shows that there is an up to £8 annual return on investment per user for every £1 spent per head of population.</p>
<p><b>Public Libraries are award winning and offer life changing projects</b></p>  <p>Libraries create projects and partnerships such as 'Appiness' and 'Macmillan in libraries'.</p>	<p><b>Public Libraries are essential</b></p>  <p>They support digital inclusion and improve digital skills, vital for the 20% of people in Scotland who do not have access to the internet.</p>	<p><b>School Libraries support raising attainment</b></p>  <p>Research has shown that professionally staffed libraries help pupils achieve higher exam scores.</p>
<p><b>School Libraries support literacy</b></p>  <p>Reading for pleasure is more important to a child's educational achievement than their family's wealth or social class.</p>	<p><b>School Librarians are undervalued</b></p>  <p>Pupil numbers have increased by 6,707 since 2010 but cuts have left only 11 out of 32 local authorities with a full time qualified librarian in every secondary school.</p>	<p><b>School Librarians introduce pupils to information and digital literacy</b></p>  <p>Projects such as Elgin Academy's Nibbles and Bytes Café can be a bridge between school and further or higher education and employment.</p>

You can read more about our campaign or get in touch with us at [www.cilips.org.uk](http://www.cilips.org.uk)

These facts only give the briefest flavour of what libraries can so why not arrange a visit to your local public or school library and talk to the staff and users to find out what they get from their library?

We think you'll be amazed and inspired by the contribution our libraries make.