

Libraries and  
information are  
essential for a  
*brighter* future.

**As our nation approaches the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2021, CILIP Scotland are leading a campaign called Libraries and Information: Essential for a Brighter Future.**

We believe that the importance of all libraries will be in sharper focus than ever as Scotland begins to emerge from the pandemic, and we want to emphasise the essential role that libraries play in the brighter future we are all hoping for.

People across Scotland will need safe, trusted spaces, whether that be within the community, a school, a college, a university, or a workplace, with skilled and supportive staff available to help people from every walk of life access what they need.





School libraries contribute to raising attainment, provide equitable access to resources, increase digital engagement and support health literacy.



Support for libraries investment was backed by the vast majority of people (over ¾) via the Citizens Assembly.



Libraries are economic enablers, for every £1 spent they can potentially yield £7 of return.



Libraries support health, wellbeing, inclusion and are key to reducing social isolation.

## We are asking candidates to:



**Support the funding** of all libraries to ensure they can continue to support reading and education, digital and information literacy, health and wellbeing, economic wellbeing and access to information.



Ensure Local Government has the **support required** to ensure they can deliver the new National Strategy for Public Libraries.



**Agree that misinformation** is damaging society and eroding democracy, and libraries and information professionals are vital in combating this and should be valued and supported.



Ensure that school libraries and librarians are **key components of curriculum delivery**, as outlined in Vibrant Libraries, Thriving Schools, and all school pupils have access to a trained professional.



In Scotland in 2019,  
public libraries had  
**43,000,000+** visits  
with **20,000,000+**  
books borrowed.





Libraries are the most common cultural event/place for adults to go once per week.



Libraries champion reading and literacy, improving communication, language and self esteem.



Libraries support digital inclusion with free Wi-Fi access enabled in 100% of Scotland's libraries.



Studies have shown that 81% of people no longer know what information to trust - Library and Information Professionals are experts in information literacy and need to be supported.



**Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust**

'Libraries have always been essential to a brighter future, and never more so than now. Without libraries, there is little hope of creating a better and more equal society. Building a country where everyone has an interest in participating in, and nurturing, democratic ideals and practices, starts – you guessed it – with a visit to the library.'

**Alastair Brian, The Ferret Fact Service**

'Librarians and information professionals play an important part in this by ensuring the public can get accurate and well-sourced information, and often providing teaching to young people in schools about information literacy and the dangers of false information.'

**Connect: supporting partnerships in education (Scottish Parent Teacher Council)**

'Libraries, and in particular school libraries, are essential for supporting families, children and young people as they develop literacy and research skills. These skills unlock all learning and are skills for life.'

**Brian Sloan, Chief Executive of Age Scotland**

'Scotland's libraries are often hubs of local communities. They are a vital resource for many older people across the country and have long been a safe space, not only for accessing books and reference materials but also trusted information sources and computer technology.'

**Kerry Hudson, Author of Lowborn**

'It is no overstatement to say I wouldn't be alive today without having access to libraries as a child and young woman who grew up in extreme poverty. Mine is only one of thousands of similar stories of the vital importance of well-funded, well-facilitated libraries. Decades later they remain a safe, warm, nourishing, completely free space for our most vulnerable, as well as avenues of true social mobility and community gathering. Their value in a society that cares about its citizens cannot be overestimated.'





# #LibrariesAreEssential

#LibrariesAreEssential in Scotland, now more than ever, and we hope that you will join us in campaigning for their vital place in a brighter future.