

**COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG**  
**RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

**Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision**



**Mae'r Penderfyniad Wedi'i Ddirprwyo hwn wedi'i bennu yn 'Benderfyniad Allweddol' gan ei fod yn debygol o:**

This Delegated Decision has been established as a 'Key Decision' as it is likely:

**a) arwain at y Cyngor yn ysgwyddo gwariant sylweddol neu wneud arbedion sylweddol;**  
*to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant;*

**neu / or:**

**b) fod yn arwyddocaol o ran sut mae'n effeithio ar gymunedau sy'n byw neu'n gweithio mewn ardal sy'n cynnwys dwy etholaeth neu adran etholiadol neu ragor.**  
*to be significant in terms of its effects on Communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards.*

**c) Eraill / Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PWNC | SUBJECT: A LIBRARIES STRATEGY FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF: PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

To seek the authority to undertake a public consultation on the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf Libraries Strategy 2026-2030, led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Libraries Service.

## PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYD | DELEGATED DECISION:

Approval to undertake a public consultation on the draft Libraries Strategy 2026-2030 via the Council's website, in Libraries and the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

Agree that the Library Service utilise the feedback from the consultation to inform the final draft version of the Strategy, prior to consideration by Cabinet.

 Louise Davies <b>Llofnod y Prif Swyddog</b> Chief Officer Signature	Director, Community Services <b>Swydd</b> Designation	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 <b>Dyddiad</b> Date
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**Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor.**

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

## YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION

	Cllr Scott Emanuel, Cabinet Member for Communities	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGHOROL O'R CABINET   CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE</b>	<b>ENW A SWYDD   NAME AND DESIGNATION</b>	<b>DYDDIAD   DATE</b>

<b>LLOFNODSWYDDOG YMGYNGHOROL   CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE</b>	<b>ENW A SWYDD   NAME AND DESIGNATION</b>	<b>DYDDIAD   DATE</b>

### A FYDD Y PENDERFYNIAID YMA'N CAEL EFFAITH AR Y WARD?

WILL THIS DECISION HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WARD?

**BYDD | YES ✓      NA FYDD | NO**

### Unrhyw sylwadau pellach/Oes angen rhoi gwybod i'r Aelod Lleol: ✓

Any further comments/Need for Local Member to be informed:

## RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

**A YW'R PENDERFYNIAID YN UN BRYS A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:**

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YDY | YES      NAC YDY | NO

**Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:**

*Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:*

*If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:*

..... (Llywydd | Presiding Member) ..... (Dyddiad | Date)

**DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.**

**NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.**

AT DDEFNYDD Y SWYDDFA YN UNIG | FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Council's Website:- 06.02.26

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAID | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

**Note:** This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar:

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be:

12.02.26

DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓

**Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:**

Cyfadran   Directorate:	Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswllt   Contact Name:	Caroline O'Neill
Swydd   Designation:	Head of Arts, Culture and Libraries
Rhif Ffôn   Telephone Number:	07786523614

## DELEGATED DECISION

### RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2026

#### A LIBRARIES STRATEGY FOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF: PUBLIC CONSULTATION

**AUTHOR(s):** Caroline O'Neill, Head of Arts, Culture and Libraries  
Nick Kelland, Libraries and Information Services Manager  
Richard Reed, Area Librarian

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the authority to undertake a public consultation on the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf Libraries Strategy 2026-2030, led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Libraries Service.
- 1.2 The provision of a Libraries Strategy is one of the thirteen core entitlements within the [Welsh Government's 'Public Libraries Supporting Sustainable and Connected Communities: The seventh quality framework of Welsh Public Libraries Standards'](#).

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To undertake a public consultation on the draft Libraries Strategy 2026-2030 via the Council's website, in libraries, and the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 That the Library Service utilise the feedback from the consultation to inform the final draft version of the Strategy, prior to consideration by Cabinet.

#### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 As a public library, consulting with service users to gather their views on the service and information about changing needs is one of the thirteen core entitlements within the [Welsh Government's Seventh Quality Framework](#) for public libraries, along with providing a Libraries Strategy.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The current [RCTCBC Library Service Strategy and Action Plan](#) is for the period 2022-2025.
- 4.2 Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the Public Libraries and Museums act 1964 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons'. The Act does not specify how this provision should be delivered or how it should meet the needs of a community except that they should:

- Have regard to encouraging both adults and children to make full use of the library service.
- Lend books and other printed material free of charge to those who live, work and study in the area.

4.3 In Wales, the duty ‘to superintend and promote the improvement of the public library service provided through local authorities’ has been devolved to the relevant Welsh Government Minister since 2002 and is fulfilled through the [Welsh Public Libraries Standards](#).

4.4 The [Seventh Quality Framework](#) of these standards came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 2026 will be the first year a report based on this new framework will be produced. The new framework consists of 13 core entitlements and 11 quality indicators, this compares to 12 core entitlements, and 15 quality indicators present in the previous framework.

4.5 One of the thirteen core entitlements states that “local authority library services provide access to their library service strategy, policies, objectives, and vision, in print and online, in a range of languages appropriate for the community.”

4.6 The Seventh Quality Framework recognises that public libraries form part of our ‘social infrastructure’, and have a key role in social inclusion, tackling poverty and alleviating loneliness; they are at the heart of our communities, providing safe and non-judgemental spaces for people of all ages.

4.7 For the most recent assessment for the period [2024-25](#) RCTCBC Libraries met all 13 core entitlements in full and of the 5 quality indicators which have targets, achieved 3 in full and 1 in part.

## **5. DRAFT LIBRARIES STRATEGY 2026-2030**

5.1 The Vision, as set out in the Libraries Strategy, is:

“To be a visible, accessible and inclusive library service at the heart of our communities, enhancing the cultural, educational, and emotional life and wellbeing of all our residents and by being a service that is valued by all.”

5.2 Three key priorities have been identified with target outcomes and identified actions that will formulate an annual Implementation Plan:

### **5.2.1 Keep the Service Relevant**

- Harness technology to meet evolving user needs.
- Meet evolving needs through seamlessly connected, timely services.
- Upskill staff to deliver responsive, future-ready support.

### **5.2.2 Improve the Library Experience**

- Champion libraries as vibrant, welcoming centres at the very heart of community life in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- Encourage wider participation in diverse services and resources.
- Fulfil individual and community potential by inspiring learning, creativity, and community engagement.

### **5.2.3 Develop Services Fit for the Future**

- Support literacy and lifelong learning through events and opportunities for all ages.
- Provide safe, inclusive spaces both physical and digital.
- Deliver health and wellbeing guidance as a central part of our library service.
- Celebrate culture and heritage by reflecting diverse communities and decolonising archives.
- Foster creativity and innovation to enrich local economies and employment.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be finalised upon completion and review following a public consultation.

## **7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment will be finalised upon completion and review following a public consultation.

## **8. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT**

8.1 An (Adult) Customer Satisfaction Survey was carried out in March 2025 (1,012 respondents) with 100% of people noting that the library is an enjoyable place to visit, a safe place, and has friendly, knowledgeable staff.

8.2 Consulting with service users to gather their views on the service and information about changing needs is also one of the thirteen core entitlements within the Welsh Government's Seventh Quality Framework for public libraries.

8.3 The views of respondents to a public consultation on this draft will be considered in preparation of the Final Strategy

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to the proposal in this report.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to the proposal in the report

## **11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

11.1 A Libraries Strategy for the County Borough supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan 'Working with our Communities', and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act's seven national wellbeing goals through providing access to community-focused spaces that offer life-long learning through books and online information, being digitally inclusive by offering free access to the internet and, by working with partners on the delivery and facilitation of learning opportunities and information, advice and assistance for people of all ages.

11.2 Developing a strategy for libraries is consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:

- Long-term – providing educational and recreational engagement opportunities that develops life-long skills and providing access physically and digitally to knowledge and advice.
- Prevention – providing safe and welcome spaces for all ages to connect and access services locally – offering support and encouraging personal development through opportunities that promote social and economic resilience.
- Integrated – working with partners to support wellbeing and reduce social isolation, including providing access to information, advice and assistance, contributing more effectively to a range of local, regional and national strategic priorities in an integrated and coherent way.
- Collaboration – working with other Council services and partners and co-locating to embed good practice and meet community needs.
- Involvement – developing opportunities to learn, record, understand and experience the service user experience.

## **12. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS (please specify)**

12.1 The Libraries Strategy is relevant to the whole of the County Borough.

## **13. CONCLUSION**

13.1 This report provides information on the development of the RCTCBC Libraries Strategy 2026-2030, led by RCTCBC's Libraries Service.

13.2 The Strategy will highlight the key role of libraries in communities, recognising their contribution to meeting community needs locally, providing information, advice and assistance, offering safe and welcome spaces for connection, and in supporting the development of resilient communities.