

Draft Library Strategy (2026 – 2030)

How we use your personal information

The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of this consultation. To learn more about how your information is used, please visit the Council's Consultation Privacy Notice, Library Service Privacy Notice and Data Protection Pages.

Our Vision

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.

Our Key Strategic Priorities

We have identified three key strategic priorities that will support the achievement of our Libraries Strategy vision over the next 5 years:

Priority 1: Keep the Service Relevant

We want our libraries to keep pace with how people's needs are changing. This includes:

- **Using new and emerging technology to improve services**
- **Offering connected, up-to-date digital and in-person support**
- **Ensuring staff have the skills to help users confidently in a fast-changing world**

Q1 To what extent do you agree with our priority to keep the service relevant?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about this priority?

Priority 2: Improve the Library Experience

We aim to make our libraries vibrant, welcoming places at the heart of community life. This means:

- **Offering a wide range of services, events and activities**
- **Making it easier for more people to get involved and take part**
- **Inspiring creativity, learning and community engagement**

Q2 To what extent do you agree with our priority to improve the library experience?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about this priority?

Priority 3: Develop Services Fit for the Future

We want to ensure libraries remain safe, inclusive and relevant for everyone. This includes:

- **Supporting literacy and lifelong learning for all ages**
- **Providing both physical and digital spaces that are open, safe and inclusive**
- **Supporting health and wellbeing through information, activities and guidance**
- **Celebrating local culture and heritage, reflecting all communities fairly**
- **Encouraging creativity, innovation and opportunities that support the local economy**

Q3 To what extent do you agree with our priority to develop service fit for the future?

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments about this priority?

Q4 Thinking about the strategy as a whole and its priorities is there anything else you would like to add?

Q5 Do you have any other comments on the proposed library strategy?

Equality Monitoring Questions

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council – Equality Monitoring Form

The Council is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and having a clear picture of the equality profile of our consultation respondents can help monitor the effectiveness of our equal opportunities policies and procedures. We conduct monitoring in order to identify gaps in access to our services, and make targeted changes where gaps are identified. Data is only used to improve services, and in reporting.

Q6 You are entirely free to decide whether or not to complete this form and there are no consequences of failing to do so. We do not intend on capturing any personal identifiable information through this form. Please be mindful of this in the responses you provide within the free text areas. In the instance where you do provide us with information about yourself or others, RCTCBC will ensure it will be processed in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and only used for monitoring and reporting purposes.

I do not wish to provide any of the information requested on this form

Q7 Age

15 or under

35-44

65-74

16-24

45-54

75+

25-34

55-64

Prefer not to say

Q8 **Sex**

Are you

Female

Male

Prefer not to say

If you prefer your own term, please provide this here:

Q9 **Gender Identity**

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

Please write in your gender:

Q10 Sexual Orientation

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual / Straight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay man | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay woman / Lesbian | |

If you prefer to use your own term, please provide this here:

Q11 National Identity

How would you describe your national identity?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> British | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornish | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

Please describe

Q12 Ethnicity

How would you describe your ethnic origin?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arab | <input type="checkbox"/> English Gypsy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian: British | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish Gypsy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi | <input type="checkbox"/> Irish Traveller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British: Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Gypsy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian: Cornish | <input type="checkbox"/> Scottish Traveller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian: English | <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh Gypsy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British: Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple: African & Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian: Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple: Black African & White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian: Northern Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple: Black British & White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British: Pakistani | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple: Black Caribbean & White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian: Scottish | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple: East Asian & White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British: Other East Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple: South Asian & White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British: Other South Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple: Other (please describe): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian: Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Roma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British: Other (please describe): | <input type="checkbox"/> Sinti |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black: British | <input type="checkbox"/> White: British |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British: African | <input type="checkbox"/> White: Cornish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British: Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> White: English |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black: Cornish | <input type="checkbox"/> White: Gypsy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black: English | <input type="checkbox"/> White: Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black: Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> White: Irish Traveller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black: Northern Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> White: Northern Irish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black: Scottish | <input type="checkbox"/> White: Scottish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black: Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> White: Welsh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, Black British or Black African: | <input type="checkbox"/> White: Other (please describe): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe): | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

If other Ethnic Group or if you would prefer to use your own definition, please specify:

Q13 Disability

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

'The definition of disability as defined under the Equality Act (2010) is 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial or long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out day-to-day activities'.

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Q14 Religion or belief

What is your religion or belief?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian (including Church of Wales, Catholic, Protestant and all other denominations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-religious (e.g. Atheist, Humanist etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

If other Religion or Belief, or if you prefer to use your own definition, please provide this here:

Q15 Caring Responsibilities

Do you look after, or support family members, friends, neighbours or others because of either: a long term physical or mental condition/disability or problems related to old age?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 50 or more hours a week |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 1-19 hours a week | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 20-49 hours a week | |

Q16 Pregnancy and maternity

Are you currently pregnant, or have you been pregnant within the last 12 months?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

Q17 Have you taken (or are you currently taking) maternity leave in the last 12 months?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

Q18 Veterans and Armed Forces

Have you ever, or are you currently, serving in the Armed Forces?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

Q19 Under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duties, the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on people because they may have particular characteristics.

How would the proposals affect you because of your:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sex | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Gender identity | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality | <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship status | <input type="checkbox"/> Preferred language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion / Belief | | |

Please provide your reason/s:

Q20 As part of our Welsh Impact Assessment (WIA) process, the Council has identified that there are possible impacts on the Welsh Language. Please review the WIA and provide any comments if appropriate.

Q21 How do you feel the proposal could impact on opportunities for learners to use and promote the Welsh Language?

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Positively | <input type="checkbox"/> Negatively | <input type="checkbox"/> No impact | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Q22 How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be decreased?

Q23 Does the proposal, in any way, treat the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language?

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Citizens' Panel

Would you like to be part of our Citizens' Panel and be contacted with information about consultations to improve and develop services in Rhondda Cynon Taf? Panel membership is voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part in any consultations that we send you.

How we use your personal information

The lawful basis for RCTCBC processing your information under data protection law for Citizens' Panel purposes is as part of our public task. To learn more about how your information is used for Citizens' Panel purposes please visit the Council's Consultation Privacy Notice on the Council website.

Q24 Would you like to become part of our Citizens' Panel

Yes

No

I already am a member

Q25 What area of RCT do you live in?

Rhondda

Cynon

Taf

Q26 How would you like to be contacted?

Email

Letter

Q27 Please provide your contact details:

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Email:

Thank you for taking the time to complete the above consultation.

Please submit your response to
Freepost RUGK-EZZL-ELBH
Consultation Team
Third Floor Office
2 Llys Cadwyn
PONTYPRIDD
CF37 4TH

All correspondence should be received no later than 1st
May 2026.