

Working Together T&PC Webinar: Dorset Council libraries consultation

Lisa Cotton, Head of Customer, Libraries and Archives

Liz Crocker, Service Manager – Libraries

9th November 2021



Library Strategy

- Current Library Strategy is 10 years old
- Those 11 years have seen huge changes in public behaviour, digital technology and a pandemic!
- It is now time to engage and look at the future of libraries- how they can maximise delivery of the Council's priorities and meet the needs of our communities, now and for the future.
- We have a duty to engage, evolve and develop.
- A new strategy will also allow us to showcase and embed what we do really well.
- Maximising public benefit of our resources

Strategy development timeline

Launch Phase One consultation
25th October

Consultation closes
7th January 2022

Cabinet reviews draft strategy and approves consultation
June 2022

Phase two consultation closes
November 2022

Deliver engagement events and workshops
November-December

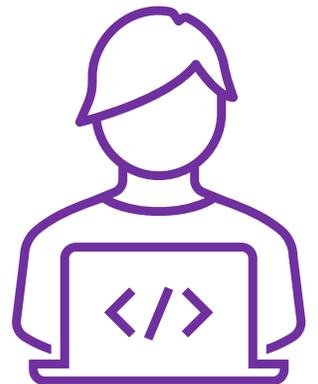
Strategy proposals tested with Overview Committees
March 2022

Launch Phase Two consultation
August 2022

Final Library Strategy signed off
Early 2023

Approach

- Phase one consultation will run for 11 weeks from **25th October 2021- 7th January 2022**.
- This consultation will explore resident and stakeholder feeling around the library service offer (both digital and physical), what they value, what could be developed, what obstacles exist that prevent someone from using the library.
- There are three surveys:
 1. Children's survey for 5-15 year olds
 2. Public survey (for 16+yrs). This survey is split into a library user and non user.
 3. Employee, partner and business survey (including Town and Parish Councils and Councillors)
- **Digital first survey approach**

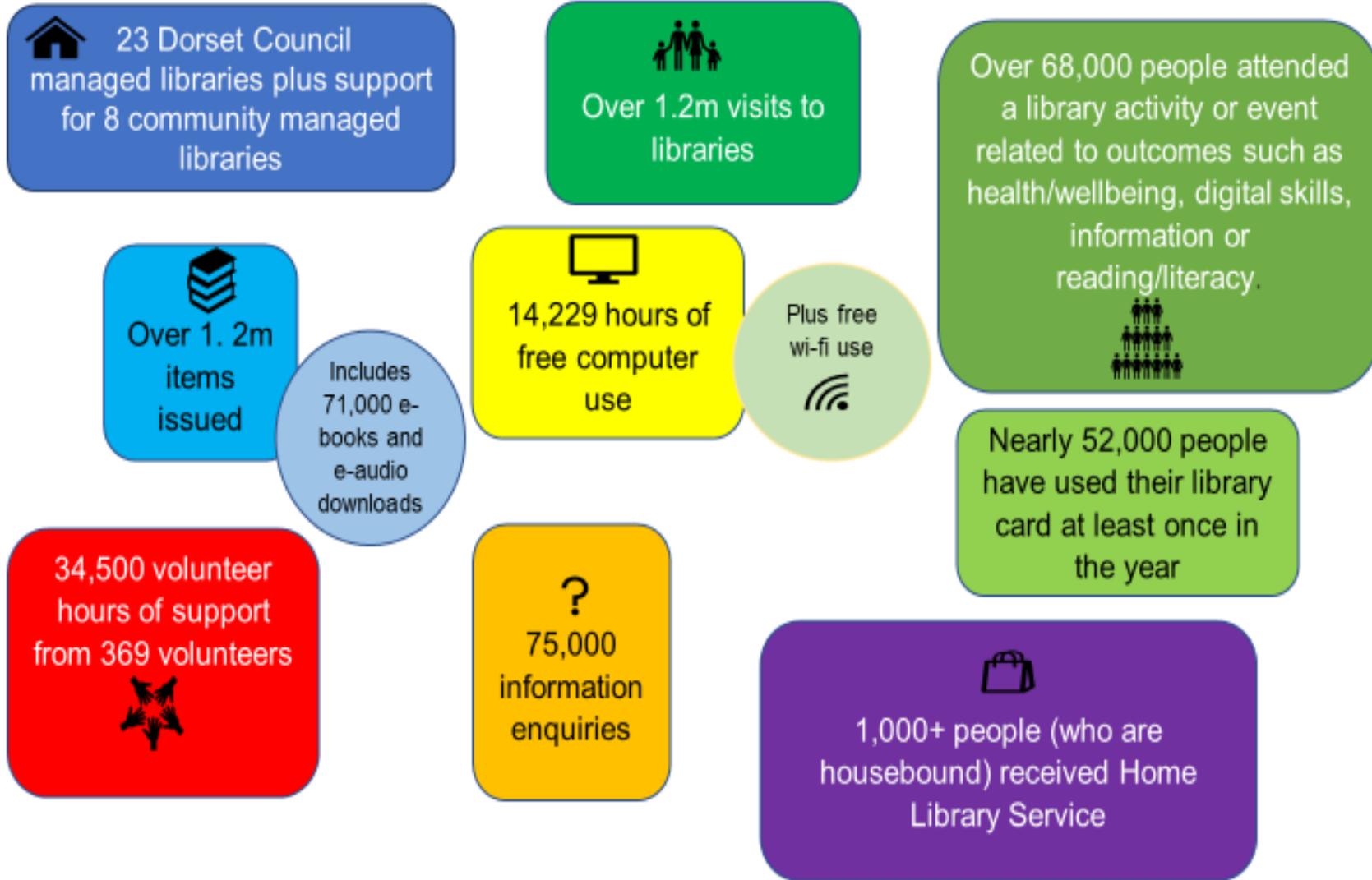


Service re-cap

- 23 council run libraries and 8 community managed libraries.
- 6 libraries' catchment areas include areas which are classified as being in the top 30% most deprived areas nationally: Portland, Littlemoor, Weymouth, Bridport, Sherborne and Ferndown.
-
- When looking at key childrens performance indicators, such as educational attainment, being school ready at reception, and eligibility for free school needs 7 libraries' catchment areas indicate need for our children and young people: Beaminster, Gillingham, Littlemoor, Lyme Regis, Portland, Shaftesbury and Weymouth.

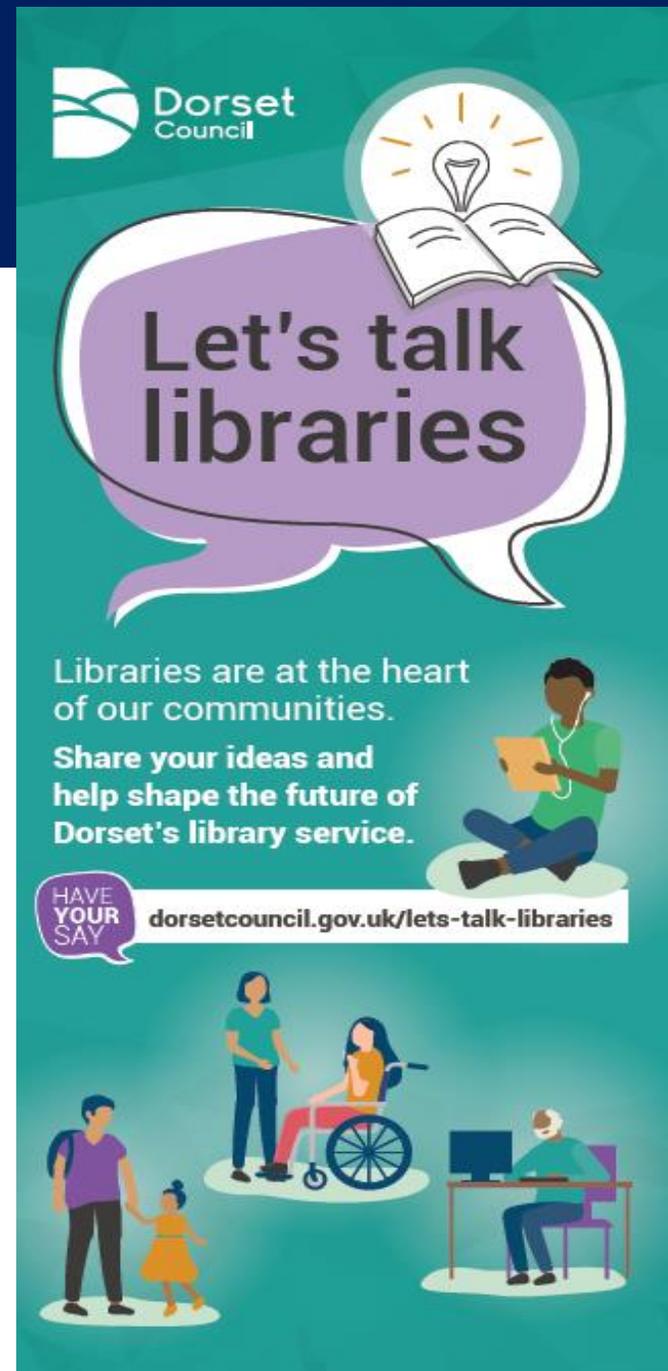


Dorset Libraries – performance information 2019/20



#LetsTalkLibraries

- ✓ The #LetsTalkLibraries campaign picks up from a historic engagement exercise from 2018.
- ✓ The conversation continues- but our engagement is widened.
- ✓ Targeted engagement workshops will be delivered with those groups who do not normally take part in library consultations:
 - non users,
 - young people,
 - residents from areas of soci-economic deprivation,
 - job seekers, businesses,
 - self employed,
 - protected groups (including armed forces & carers)



Making it easy to have your say...



Dorset Council

Let's talk libraries

Libraries are at the heart of our communities.

Share your ideas and help shape the future of Dorset's library service.



dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/lets-talk-libraries

#LetsTalkLibraries

HAVE YOUR SAY



Dorset Council

Let's talk libraries

Are you 5 - 15 years old?

Share your ideas and help shape the future of Dorset's library service.



dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/lets-talk-libraries

#LetsTalkLibraries

HAVE YOUR SAY

Key messages

- ✓ Libraries are at the heart of our communities: **highly valued** for rich variety of resources, access to information, services & digital support, activities and events, connection, learning & much more!
- ✓ Since 2011 residents' needs, behaviours, IT, online platforms and a pandemic has changed everything...**so we need to look ahead what does 2030 look like?**
- ✓ This is an **exciting time** for residents, employees, partners and business to help us shape the future!

Key messages

- ✓ There are no plans for any changes at this stage.
- ✓ Phase 1 is open conversation with all to understand current and future needs + what is really valued!
- ✓ We encourage innovative ideas to ensure libraries are modern, sustainable and add community value!
- ✓ We are looking for ways we can join up and complement delivery of the council's priorities across services and sectors, utilising libraries to maximise our reach and impact in communities.

Next steps

We ask that you:

- **Promote the public survey** with your colleagues and residents.
 - Display posters? 📌
- Feed in your local knowledge and views via the dedicated **partner survey**.
- **Follow Dorset Libraries** on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and promote us via re-tweets.
- **Promote sign ups** to our library user online workshop on Friday 12th Nov 10:00-11:30am

We commit to you:

- We will provide an update to T&P Councils once the consultation has closed and keep you updated and engaged in strategy development work.



Questions?

