

Community Libraries

We are delighted to hear a number of Parish and local councils are interested in developing proposals for tier 3 or tier 4 community libraries.

In order for consideration to be given to a potential proposal for the setup of community libraries, you will need to complete an Expression of Interest form via the Future Library Services survey (more information about this is provided below).

At this stage in the process we want to identify those interested in establishing community libraries. This allows us to contact these organisations once we have more detailed information on what a community library will be within this strategy.

This phase of work is specifically to seek views on the shape of the future libraries service via a 12-week consultation. The intention is that in June 2019, ECC's Cabinet will approve the final strategy, enabling us to engage more formally with regards to any changes, for example, closures of libraries or changes to the service such as establishing community libraries (see summary timeline below).

What is an Expression of Interest (EOI)?

An Expression of Interest tells us you are interested in establishing a community run library in your area and would like to learn more about what a community library will be within this strategy. The EOI form asks for some basic information regarding your organisation (e.g. its location) as well as contact details so that we can reconnect at a later date (see timeline below). Please be reassured this is only an expression of your interest and the information you provide on the EOI will only be used to provide us with some context; it is neither final nor binding and can be updated or withdrawn.

How do I register an Expression of Interest?

To make an expression of interest you must complete the [Future Library Services survey](#) on behalf of your organisation.

By indicating you are 'an organisation' when asked, the form will show only those questions that are relevant to an organisation (as opposed to an individual). Question 25 asks if you are "interested in running or being involved with a community-run library in a tier 3 or tier 4 location?" and directs you to complete an EOI form. The form will open in a separate tab so please remember to go back and submit your survey on the original tab.

We would also encourage you and your stakeholders to complete the survey as library users in a personal capacity (i.e. as non-organisations) so that we ensure we have comprehensively consulted with the citizens of Essex.

What happens next?

After the consultation has been completed, we will contact all those who have submitted an Expression of Interest in order to work with them to ensure:

- (a) they understand the basis of the ECC offer, including the future of the library site/building etc.
- (b) we are able to clarify the viability of any proposals by seeking more detailed information.

Summary Timeline

- Strategy Consultation & Approval
 - 29 Nov 18 – 20 Feb 19: Consultation period

- Mar – Apr 2019: Evaluation period
- May 2019: Final strategy drafting
- June 2019: Cabinet approval of final strategy
- Community library offer & Proposals
 - Dec 18 – Mar 19: ECC develop community library offer
 - Mar – May 2019: Initial engagement with organisations to develop principles of Community Managed Libraries.
 - Jul – Dec 2019: Formalise proposals and develop agreements for Community Libraries (6 months minimum)