

STRATEGY 2022--27

Vision

The Leeds Library aspires to be a thriving cultural hub for the city and beyond, providing a home for readers, writers and book-lovers and a space for the production and enjoyment of all forms of creative activity.

Mission

The Library's mission can be encapsulated as being:

To strengthen the Library's foundations by putting its finances on a sustainable basis, expanding its membership, and maintaining and developing its building and collections for future generations

To open the doors of the Library and encourage its use by local people as well as by its members.

Strategic objectives

To deliver the Library's vision and mission a number of steps need to be taken over the next five years.

Strengthening the foundations

- 1 Increase and diversify the Library's income through a programme of fund-raising (including legacies), merchandising and room hire. By the end of the period these should make up 25% of the Library's income.
- 2 Improve the diversity of Library trustees, staff, volunteers and members.
- 3 Double membership to 2,000 by 2027 both through recruiting new members and by improving retention of existing members. Publicise the benefits of membership and ensure membership categories remain relevant.
- 4 Establish 15 Commercial Street as an innovative, exciting and financially sustainable space which is fully used by Library members and by visiting organisations for creative, literary and educational activities.

- 5 Establish and implement a new approach to acquiring, conserving and disposing of books which builds on the existing strengths of our collections, eliminates the need for off-site storage and makes increasing use of digital resources.
- 6 Establish the Library as a leader in environmental sustainability within the cultural and library sector by developing and implementing ambitious and innovative plans for achieving a zero carbon/zero waste organisation, making use of dedicated funding.

Opening the doors

- 1 Incrementally increase public access to the Library starting by opening up fully on one day a week.
- 2 Research the range of new technologies to determine how our archive and our rare and historic books can best be made accessible to all in virtual form and make demonstrable progress towards their being fully accessible in a virtual form that engages readers by 2032. Develop a strategy for raising awareness of our virtual collection.
- 3 Strengthen existing partnerships and establish a plan for increasing partnership working with businesses, with arts, education and community organisations as well as with city libraries.
- 4 Promote the Library to external audiences and take active steps to invite businesses, community groups and schools to visit the Library and engage with our collections.
- 5 Encourage the use of the Library's collections for research purposes.