

## Partnership Policy

Date: March 2022

Review Date: March 2025

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<b>Policy Information</b>	
<b>Policy Title</b>	<i>Partnership Policy</i>
<b>Policy Number</b>	<i>POL023</i>
<b>Version</b>	<i>Version 4 (March 2022)</i>
<b>Policy Sponsor</b>	<i>The Chief Executive</i>
<b>Policy Owner</b>	<i>The Director of Library Services</i>
<b>Committee and Date Recommended for Approval</b>	<i>Services Committee, 24 March 2022</i>
<b>Date Approved by the Board</b>	<i>28 April 2022</i>
<b>Equality Screening Status</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Screened: 12 December 2013</li> <li>2. Reviewed: 26 April 2016</li> <li>3. Reviewed: 11 March 2019</li> <li>4. Reviewed: 24 February 2022</li> </ol>
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment Status</b>	<p><i>Assessed: 4 March 2019</i>  <i>Reviewed: 24 February 2022</i></p>
<b>Date Set For Review</b>	<i>March 2025</i>
<b>Related Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children and Young People’s Services Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Data Protection Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Digital Inclusion Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Engaging with Culture and Creativity Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Heritage Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Information and Learning Services Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Promoting Positive Health and Wellbeing Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Reading and Reader Development Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Room Hire Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Safeguarding Policy</i></li> <li>• <i>Volunteer Policy</i></li> </ul>

# Partnership Policy

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Libraries NI is committed to partnership working as an important means of achieving its corporate outcomes and implementing strategic actions such as 'create strong mutually beneficial regional and local partnerships, including with other public services and community planning partners, to develop libraries as access points for a wide range of services'.
- 1.2 Libraries NI recognises that partnership work may involve membership of formally constituted groups such as Community Planning Partnerships as well as direct engagement with one or more other organisations in order to deliver mutually beneficial agreed objectives.
- 1.3 Libraries NI also recognises that the potential for partnership work far exceeds organisational capacity and that this can be a resource intensive way of working that requires careful management.

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of the policy is to ensure that partnership work is carried out in a way that maximises the benefits for library users and services.

## 3. Policy

- 3.1 Libraries NI will develop partnerships which:
  - increase library use and the level of activity within libraries
  - enable existing services to be developed, improved or extended
  - enable new services to be developed
  - enable Libraries NI to increase the range of customers and its services
  - enable services to be delivered more efficiently
  - raise the profile of Libraries NI
  - enable Libraries NI to demonstrate its contribution to departmental, community planning and government priorities
  - enable Libraries NI to achieve its organisational objectives
  - help ensure sustainability of library services and of the library network.
- 3.2 Libraries NI recognises that partnerships operate at many different levels. However, a number of principles apply to all partnerships.
- 3.3 Libraries NI will:
  - be proactive and selective in the development of partnerships
  - manage its partnership work, based on best practice guidance
  - document its partnerships appropriately
  - keep its partnerships under review
  - consider the potential for partnership working when business planning and developing policy and strategy.

#### **4. Authority**

**Policy Sponsor:** The Chief Executive is the Policy Sponsor.

**Policy Owner:** The Director of Library Services is the Policy Owner.

**Policy Contact:** The Director of Library Services is the Policy Contact.

#### **5. Related Documents**

##### **Policies**

- Children and Young People's Services Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Digital Inclusion Policy
- Engaging with Culture and Creativity Policy
- Heritage Policy
- Information and Learning Services Policy
- Promoting Positive Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Reading and Reader Development Policy
- Room Hire Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Volunteer Policy