



## Minutes

### English Public Libraries Stakeholder Working Group (EPL)

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Date	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March
Time	14:00 – 16:00
Location	Virtual Meeting

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Present:	Sue Williamson	Director, Libraries, Arts Council England (ACE) (Chair)
	Jenna Birley	Governance and Business Support Officer, Libraries, ACE (Minutes)
	Prof. Steven Broomhead	Chief Executive, Warrington Borough Council
	Isobel Hunter	Chief Executive, Libraries Connected
	Sophie Lancaster	Senior Manager, Libraries, ACE
	Lauren Lucas	Advisor – Culture, Tourism and Sport, Local Government Association (LGA)
	Nick Poole	Chief Executive, CILIP, The UK library and information association
	Liz White	Head of Public Libraries and Engagement, British Library (BL)

Apologies: *None*

Guests:	Sheila Bennett	Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)
	Emma Bernstein	Strategic Projects Lead, Sport England
	Ian Carbutt	Programme Manager, LG Inform
	Iain Moore	Commercial Director, Libraries Connected
	Tina Morton	Interim Head of Archives Sector Development, The National Archives
	Eleanor Petch	Head of Libraries Superintendence, DCMS

<b>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.1 Sue Williamson welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
2.1 There were no interests to declare.	
<b>3. FINANCIAL RESILIENCE UPDATE</b>	
3.1 Nick Poole provided an update on the financial resilience project CILIP had commissioned.	
3.2 EPL noted that the final report summarising key findings was drafted and Nick proposed it be brought to members for detailed discussion. EPL agreed to put this as an item on the next meeting agenda and Nick agreed to circulate the draft in advance of the meeting.	<b>Nick Poole</b>
3.3 Nick informed members that CILIP intended to present the findings to Heads of Service to gather their feedback before publishing an official response to the report. Isobel Hunter suggested Nick provide the draft to Libraries Connected for their upcoming Board meeting to gather some of these perspectives. Nick agreed to provide the draft report for Isobel to send to Libraries Connected's Board.	<b>Nick Poole</b>
<b>4. DATA: Presentations of the LG Inform and Moving Communities platforms</b>	
4.1 EPL welcomed Ian Carbutt LG Inform who led a presentation on the LG Inform data platform and Emma Bernstein who led a presentation on Sport England's equivalent, Moving Communities.	
4.2 EPL thanked Ian and Emma for their presentations and reflected on how the background and development of these two data platforms might inform the development of a similar one for public library data.	
4.3 Members noted principal questions to consider if such a platform for public libraries were to be developed would be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What questions should be asked of services to ensure data collection is useful both for advocacy and insight?</li> <li>• What could/should be used to encourage library services' participation in providing data to a central collector?</li> </ul>	

- Where in the collation is quality control and standardisation completed?

## 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Future agenda items

- 5.1 Isobel Hunter asked that the following Libraries Connected projects be brought to future EPL meetings for discussion:
- Future funding programme
  - Leadership pathway
  - Marketing the library
  - Regional working
- 5.2 EPL noted these future agenda items and added the need to discuss the recent Levelling Up white paper in the context of library services' regional and place-based working.
- 5.3 Sue thanked Isobel for her suggestions and asked EPL for further suggestions for future agenda items.

**Sue  
Williamson**

**Sue  
Williamson**

**All**

**Date and location of next meeting:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 15:00 – 16:00, Virtual Meeting