

Shropshire Library Strategy 2022-27 Cabinet Report

Climate Change Appraisal

Libraries have an important role to play in translating our climate change and carbon reduction objectives into action on the ground by local communities and businesses. Local libraries provide a trusted source of information about the Council's Climate Action Plan, signposting residents to helpful information and tools, to help them adopt practical solutions for low carbon lifestyles. (Appendix 4)

Libraries and the Draft library strategy can contribute to the Council's adopted Climate Strategy as follows:

- **Energy and fuel consumption** – many library buildings are already being upgraded using Government grant money to decarbonise heating and lighting. Library displays and staff can help to raise awareness of the need to reduce carbon from heating and energy use and the need to travel. Carbon savings from improvements to library buildings will be quantified and reported corporately.
- **Renewable energy generation:** the planned upgrades to library buildings will include opportunities to generate renewable energy through the inclusion of roof mounted solar panels wherever practicable, as a contribution to the Council's adopted objective of becoming energy self-sufficient by 2030.
- **Carbon offsetting or mitigation:** The Draft Library Strategy and the operation of library buildings is unlikely to provide additional opportunities to offset or mitigate carbon emissions.
- **Climate change adaptation:** libraries are key pieces of community infrastructure and displays and library staff can help to raise awareness of the measures which may be needed to adapt to the effects of more extreme weather and to improve resilience to increased risks to the health and wellbeing of Shropshire's residents, economy and natural environment.

Libraries can host community events and programs that raise awareness, promote resilience and adaptability to the climate crisis and the results of a lower carbon lifestyle. The library service will identify opportunities to work collaboratively on these issues with climate action groups associated with the Shropshire Climate Action Partnership.