58329 Public Library Services - Data Collection and Use

My research focuses on assessment and evaluation of public library services in Scotland. I would like to know:

Between 1 January 2016 - 31 December 2024, were there policies or other documentation which detail what data are collected and how those data are used in decision-making related to public library services (i.e., decisions on branch closures, funding allocations, programme development)?

Yes

If yes, please include copies of any documentation in your response.

Please refer to the Culture and Communities Committee meeting of 7 December 2023. Meeting papers are published on our website at:

https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=6782

Please refer to 'Item 7.3 – Future Libraries' - Under point 3.3 in the report and in Appendix 1 there is a description of the evidence-based approach to change in relation to future decisions.

Between 1 January 2016 - 31 December 2024, were there any library committees, working groups, or board meetings where assessment data were discussed as part of the decision-making process?

In addition to the information referenced in A1 above, please also refer to the following Culture and Communities Committee papers:

1 February 2022 – People's Network and Open Plus Report

16 May 2024 - Future Libraries – Progress Update Report

16 May 2024 - Proposals to End Library Overdue Fines

5 June 2025 - Draft Future Libraries Strategy and Service Change Proposals Report

If yes, please include copies of documentation (i.e., meeting minutes) in your response.

Please refer to the following Culture and Communities Committee meeting minutes published on our website at:

1 February 2022 - Meeting minutes

7 December 2023 - Meeting minutes

16 May 2024 - Meeting minutes

5 June 2025 - Meeting minutes

Is the responsibility for monitoring and reporting on public library performance documented in any organisational structures or role descriptions?

Yes

If yes, please include copies of org structures or role descriptions in your response.

Please refer to the attached structure which includes the Libraries Development Manager with the responsibility for Performance. Also attached is the Job Description.