

## Chapter 9: Libraries and Lifelong Learning

### Introduction

- 9.1 New residential development can increase demand on libraries and other facilities which facilitate life-long learning, particularly in regard to equipment and space available.

### Policy Context

#### Cambridge

- 9.2 Cambridge Local Plan 2018 Policy 85: Infrastructure delivery, Planning Obligations, and the Community Infrastructure Levy establishes that planning permission will only be granted if there is sufficient infrastructure capacity to meet the need arising from the new development. It includes community facilities which includes libraries. Policy 73: Community, Sports, and Leisure facilities also addresses the requirement for new community facilities.

#### South Cambridgeshire

- 9.3 South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 Policy SC/4: Meeting Community Needs includes library facilities, including promotion of shared spaces, where they support access to the infrastructure or service. They are also listed as a potential requirement under policy TI/8 Infrastructure and New Development.

### Development types from which Obligations will be sought

- 9.4 All new residential development, including within mixed-use schemes, is to meet the developments needs for new library provision.
- 9.5 Applicants should clearly set out with their planning application the details of the number of dwellings or expected population arising from the new development.

### Form in which contributions should be made

- 9.6 The Cambridgeshire County Council Planning Obligations Strategy sets out the County Council's approach to securing contributions using the Museums Library and Archives Council (MLA) Standard Charge approach. It calculates the expected new population of development to assess impact on the existing

library catchment and identifies a project, if required, to mitigate this using specific costings.

- 9.7 The County Council has a statutory duty under the Public Library and Museums Act (1964) to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons desiring to make use of thereof. A service level policy (2005) sets the context of local need and defines the standard of service to be provide at libraries. Contributions towards stock and fit out, mobile services, extensions to existing libraries or new library buildings may be required to mitigate new residents. New library buildings may be provided as part of a shared community building.
- 9.8 New housing development will have implications for the existing library provision, which may require the following developer contributions towards the provision of:
- Sites for new libraries.
  - A new library building (covering full building and finishes).
  - Co-location with other services in 'community hubs'.
  - Library fit out and new stock (including the provision of power, data, IT equipment, furniture, shelving and fittings).
  - Upgrading an existing library and lifelong learning facility (might include an extension and/or improvement to the existing floor space).
  - A mobile service, community provided or 'pop up' service.
  - A revenue stream for the provision of new services for a period of time.

### **Exemptions**

- 9.9 Residential development not reasonably likely to access library services, such as some extra care settings

### **Further guidance**

- 9.10 Applicants for planning permission should contact the County Council via [GrowthDevelopment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:GrowthDevelopment@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) email to obtain pre-application advice in the library implications for their development

[Cambridgeshire County Council Planning Obligations Strategy](#)