

Library Criteria Document Narrative:

The purpose of the Library Criteria Document is to allow an objective comparison of all the libraries in Sunderland.

The document consists of a ranked table of libraries; each library was assessed on a number of different criteria, including Performance, Cost, Asset Management and Population. For Libraries identified as Hubs this ranking system was used in parallel with a set of other criteria based on co-location with other council and partner services.

In order to determine the “fit for purpose” rating for each library the scores were tallied from the assorted criteria to determine overall ranking. The criterion for performance was given a triple rating because it was felt that how well a library performed should have the greatest impact on the future of that library.

For each criterion the libraries were compared to one another and ranked between 1-20. These scores were then collated and totalled to produce a league table which reflects the “fit for purpose” rating of each library.

Within each criterion there were a number of further variables:

Performance

Within the Performance section each library was assessed against the following variables:

- Active Borrowers- number of borrowers per library
- Issues- number of issues per library
- Enquiries- number of enquiries per library
- Visits- number of customer visits per library
- ICT Hours- number of ICT hours spent per library

The scores were then ranked from 1-20 to determine the “fit for purpose” rating in terms of performance.

Cost

In order to rank each library in terms of cost, the budget data was cross referenced with the performance management data to determine the unit cost for each variable. The scores were then ranked from 1-20 to determine the “fit for purpose” rating in terms of cost.

Asset Management

Each library was assessed by Property Services as part of the Smarter Working Project. As part of this assessment each library was given a back-log maintenance cost based on the physical condition of the building. Each library was then ranked from 1-20 to determine the “fit for purpose” rating in terms of Asset Management.

Population

A population cross-section of the area for each library was developed using information from the 2011 census data. This data was used to determine what percentage of the population lived within a two mile radius of each facility. Each library was then ranked from 1-20 to determine the “fit for purpose” rating in terms of population.