



Libraries Connected

President recruitment pack 2026

Thank you for your interest in becoming President of Libraries Connected. This is a unique opportunity to strengthen the voice of public libraries across the UK, working alongside a skilled Board, a dynamic CEO, and a committed Chair. The President is an outward-facing ambassador and advocate for the sector, helping to represent members and connect their priorities with national conversations. This role offers a chance to inspire, represent, and connect members while contributing to a high-performing Board.

Context for the Role

Libraries Connected is a leading membership organisation for public library heads and sector leaders. Our [current strategic plan](#) runs to 2027 and the next President will help shape and launch our new strategy – building on our established national profile and growing policy influence.

Our membership is dynamic, with regular turnover among Heads of Service and an evolved governance structure. The President plays a key role in helping Libraries Connected stay connected to member priorities – championing their ambitions and challenges in all we do.

The sector is at a pivotal moment: with the development by the government of a new strategy for English libraries, local government reorganisation, and many more challenges and opportunities. Advocacy and partnership-building are more vital than ever as we amplify our collective voice.

Why become president?

- ◆ Help strengthen the national voice for public libraries as one of the sector's advocates.
- ◆ Champion the sector's value to policymakers, funders, and the public.
- ◆ Connect members to national strategy and amplify their voice.
- ◆ Help build relationships with senior leaders, partners, and stakeholders.
- ◆ Raise your professional profile as an ambassador and advocate.

Role overview

The President is an outward-facing ambassador and sector advocate for Libraries Connected. The President promotes the value of public libraries, helps shape national conversations, and provides a visible and trusted connection with members. The President chairs the Advisory Committee, helping ensure its insights shape Board discussion and member priorities are clearly represented. The role is collaborative, influential and supportive – working in partnership with the Chair, CEO and other trustees.

Key Responsibilities

Sector advocacy and influence

- ◆ Represent the library sector to media, policymakers, and civic leaders, aligned with the Board strategy.
- ◆ Champion the role of libraries across national debates.
- ◆ Support strategic relationships with funders and partners.

Member relationships

- ◆ Serve as a trusted figurehead for Heads of Service.
- ◆ Chair the Advisory Committee and foster strong member engagement.
- ◆ Attend member events, conferences, and meetings.
- ◆ Ensure member perspectives help inform our national messaging.

Strategic and public engagement

- ◆ Contribute insight at Board meetings as a full trustee.
- ◆ Support public messaging and sector campaigns.
- ◆ Help to provide thought leadership through speaking, writing, and advocacy.

Ambassadorial presence

- ◆ Represent Libraries Connected at selected national events.
- ◆ Act as spokesperson alongside other leaders.
- ◆ Model inclusive, ethical, and collaborative leadership.

Terms and practicalities

- ◆ Term: 2 years (non-renewable)
- ◆ Election: By Heads of Service
- ◆ Trustee status: Full voting rights
- ◆ Time commitment: ~2-3 days/month
- ◆ Remuneration: Voluntary; expenses covered
- ◆ Support: Works collaboratively with the CEO, Chair, and Vice-Chairs

Governance context

The President works collaboratively within the governance structure, helping amplify member voices and strengthen sector visibility.

The President is a trustee with legal duties but no executive or line-management authority. The CEO leads operational delivery. The Chair leads governance and Board performance.

What you will gain

- ◆ Profile as a national ambassador and advocate
- ◆ Strategic influence in sector-wide debates
- ◆ High-level networking opportunities
- ◆ Opportunities for leadership and personal development
- ◆ A meaningful role in strengthening the sector

Person specification

We are seeking a visionary, collaborative leader who:

- ◆ Inspires and connects members
- ◆ Champions public libraries as an advocate
- ◆ Builds trust and unity
- ◆ Communicates with confidence
- ◆ Understands strategic and political contexts
- ◆ Demonstrates commitment to inclusion and the Nolan principles

Essential

- ◆ Commitment to Libraries Connected's mission and values
- ◆ Strong experience in leadership and innovation in public libraries
- ◆ Strong communication skills
- ◆ Strategic judgement
- ◆ Stakeholder engagement capability

Desirable

- ◆ Leadership experience
- ◆ Public advocacy experience
- ◆ Understanding of the cultural sector
- ◆ Financial, commercial, or digital expertise

How to apply and election process

Send a biography and statement to Robert Davies:

robert.davies@librariesconnected.org.uk

Timeline

- ◆ Biography and statement to be received by 09.00, 30 March 2026
- ◆ Voting by Heads of Service will run 1-23 April 2026
- ◆ Results of the election process will be announced to candidates on the 27 April
- ◆ Formal Announcement of results: 9 June (at the Annual Seminar)
- ◆ Term begins: 10 June 2026

It is expected that the new President will be available to attend the Annual Seminar on the 9th and 10th June being held at the Chesford Grange Conference Centre, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. The new President will also be invited to join a Trustee induction day (along with other new Trustees) ahead of the Board meeting being held on the June 25th.

For discussion before applying

Ed Jewell (President): E.Jewell@gov.je

Isobel Hunter (CEO): isobel.hunter@librariesconnected.org.uk

Further information

Trustee responsibilities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>