PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A SOFT MARKET TEST ONLY TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL WITH RESEARCH AND PREPARATION AND IS **NOT**A FORMAL TENDER. THIS MAY LEAD TO A PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE

Cheshire West and Chester Council is currently considering options for an e-lending newspaper service for Cheshire Libraries and is testing the market to establish if there are suitable providers that can provide a system of this type.

Interested parties must respond via the CHEST [www.the-chest.org.uk](http://www.the-chest.org.uk) with their expression of interest and any associated questions by no later than **23rd August, 10am** **Providers who are interested must complete the answers to the questions below. Please submit your response by following the steps on the Chest.**

Can all interested suppliers review the system requirements and indicate if they can meet them or not.

**Requirements/background information:**

**Product:**

Public library e-newspaper lending service for Cheshire library members

**Audience:**

Cheshire library users for the purpose of reading national and local newspapers on the day of publication; undertake family/local history research and other general research

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| **System Requirement** | **Provider Response - Please provide details to confirm how your system currently meets the requirements listed.** |
| **Format:**   * Public library elending model * Available 24/7 * Remote access for users * Accessible through desktop and mobile devices * An App for users is essential |  |
| **Access:**   * Single sign on using borrower library membership card number. * System to integrate with the library management system (Koha) using a recognised standard – e.g. SIP2, web services or API for live authentication. * It should be possible for content to be downloaded and viewed offline |  |
| **Platform**:   * Easy to use, attractive layout with clear navigation of the site and the individual papers and articles and a simple search facility. * Carousel of daily newspapers available on homepage as thumbnails, for quick access. * User guides and online help service available * Platform should conform to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) as published by the W3C organisation |  |
| **Content:**  Simultaneous access to national, regional and local newspapers including:  National titles: (daily and weekend editions) Daily Express, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, The I, Independent, Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Times and Observer  Regional and local titles**:**  Manchester Evening News, Liverpool Echo, Chester Chronicle, Chester and District Standard, Congleton Chronicle, Ellesmere Port Pioneer, Macclesfield Express, Northwich Guardian, Sentinel, Wilmslow Express, Winsford Guardian and Wirral Globe.  Both current and back copies should be available |  |
| **Content display and functionality**:   * Digital image of full newspaper, with images and text layout. * Page navigation: swipe functionality and page index navigation * User functionality to include reader mode with text enlargement, page orientation, text searching and bookmarks * Text to audio function   Searching:   * Content search including filters across titles using keyword and date range for newspapers and articles. * Facility to copy and download articles |  |
| **Administration and management information**   * Staff should have access to customise the home pages of the platform and content display * Interactive Management information reporting on issues, title usage and patron access for library staff * Ability to amend parameters for loan period and quantity |  |
| **Support**   * Online support available for staff and users * Maintenance and support shall be prompt and effective, and should meet the requirements of a Council developed SLA. * The service shall be hosted by the supplier adhering to UK Data Protection law. |  |

This process is intended to inform Councils' understanding of the market and is not part of a formal procurement process. Should the Council decide to proceed, a formal procurement process may follow at a later date.

Any responses received will not prejudice any involvement in a future procurement process and will not include or preclude any organisation from participating in any future procurement process. All information provided as part of this exercise will be provided to all parties involved in any future procurement exercise. Local Authorities are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and cannot guarantee that information received will remain confidential.