Diagram 3: Successfully operating a community managed library

Ambition and growth
Section highlighting the fragility of maintaining the operation and the need to primarily focus on the main outcomes – the cautions around expanding the offer and the constraints presented financially, building restrictions, volunteer resources.

Developing relationships and Networks
The need to develop relationships both on a local level with the LA and the community but also on a wider professional level for support and training – Taskforce CIPFA – Community managed Peer Support Network. Section to highlighting key relationships and purpose.

Volunteer retention and recruitment
Section highlighting the need to invest in volunteer retention and development to sustain long-term availability. Similarly the need to recruit new volunteers with the right skills and potential. Succession planning in senior roles particularly where positions such as chairs and treasurers are required.

 Longer term agreements
Most community libraries are established on short-term agreements with the intention of either becoming self-sufficient or reducing resources in the future. This presents a significant challenge to community libraries and requires attention early in the libraries existence.

Reviewing Barriers and Risks

Business Plan Review
- Ongoing fundraising – securing local and national funds and grants
- Monitoring the outcomes and performance continuing to make the case and show value to council
- Reviewing the structure and vehicle