



Report to Policy Committee

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Lisa Firth

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Report of: Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Report to: Briefing to Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee

Date of Decision: 12 December 2023

Subject: **Graves Building and Central Library**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes		No	x	
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given?					
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes		No	x	
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes		No	x	
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes		No	x	
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-					
Purpose of Report:					
To provide a briefing to the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee regarding the process being proposed to Strategy and Resources Committee in December 2023 for the timeline and requirement for feasibility funding to develop a solution for the Graves Buildings, which hosts the Central Library and Graves Gallery.					

Recommendations:

The Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee is asked to:

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Note that further updates and decisions (where required) on the future role of the library service and Central Library offer will be brought to the CPL committee for approval.
3. Note that decisions regarding the Graves Building, including financial decisions will be made by the Strategy and Resources Committee.

Background Papers:

(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)

None

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: None – briefing report
		Legal: Robert Parkin
		Equalities & Consultation: None – briefing report
		Climate: None – briefing report
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	SLB member who approved submission:	Ajman Ali
3	Committee Chair consulted:	Cllr Richard Williams
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Hilary Coulson	Job Title: Head of Libraries and Archive Services
Date: 12 th December 2023		

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Context

The Sheffield Central Library building opened in 1934. It is steel-framed, faced in Portland stone, with decorative mouldings and specially designed fittings in Art Deco style, and is Grade II Listed. It is the largest lending library in the city, which also provides business services and access to computers. The top-floor art gallery was founded following a bequest by JG Graves and is run very effectively by Sheffield Museums. There is also a small theatre in the basement, originally designed for public speaking rather than drama, which is a popular affordable venue for amateur dramatic groups despite limited accessibility.

1.2 Scope of the current Central Library and City Archives

At present the Central Library offers a large adult lending library and study space, a reading room and a computer suite across the ground floor of the building, with the Children's Library in the Lower Ground floor. The Carpenter and Jackson rooms are bookable spaces for meetings and events and located on the first floor. The basement of the building houses the Library Theatre, an 240 seat auditorium, as well as the stacks and a number of locked strongrooms for out of print stock including rare and valuable books and materials.

The Archives is split across the City Archives on Shoreham Street and the Local Studies Library located on the first floor of the Central Library building. The Shoreham St building houses the Archives supervised reading room, where member of the public can view the materials held in the Archives, as well as the Archive strongroom which is maintained under strict environmental controls and the Conservation and Digitisation studios, where materials are preserved, repaired and scanned.

1.3 Report to Strategy & Resources Committee on the Indicative process and timescales

To build on the work done to date around the vision for the Central Library and City Archives, we are proposing to submit a bid to the South Yorkshire Project Feasibility Fund, held by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. The funding will enable the council to engage external resource support to develop the requirements of a central library and archive for Sheffield, including public engagement, outline costs, future revenue streams and an outline funding strategy. A parallel bid will also be submitted to the same fund from the Sheffield Museums Trust (supported by SCC) to develop the vision for the Graves Gallery. There will be significant interdependencies

between the two feasibility studies and these will then be considered together, and next steps agreed.

The bid to the feasibility fund also reflects that there is significant work to engage with the public and partners, as well as plan the logistics for managing the stock and service delivery during any relocation, repair or renovation works.

Date	Action
December 2023	Submit Feasibility Fund bid for capacity and development work: Library, Gallery, and Archives and building survey
January – September 2024	Ascertain vision through engagement: Central Library and City Archives (note there will be concurrent work scoping the building repairs and Gallery)
September 2024 – February 2025	Options appraisal to ascertain preferred option: Library, Gallery, and Archives – this will require external resource support, including consultation and engagement.
	Prepare for enabling works and business continuity – all services
December 2024	Internal building surveys completed
February 2025	Consult with funding partners with a view to bidding for a development grant for preferred options re Graves/library/archives
March 2025	Produce business case for required works to progress preferred option for Services
March 2026	Council decision on preferred business case for Graves/library/archives
March 2026	Funding bids submitted for preferred option
September 2026 – March 2027	Procurement and fundraising for preferred option
Autumn 2027	On-site building/develop works for preferred option

1.4 **Governance**

The governance for the overall Graves building project sits with the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, covering the immediate and longer term need for repairs to the building and associated funding.

The Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee will be involved to decide on the long-term vision for the library service, including Sheffield’s Central Library and City Archives offer.

2. **HOW DOES THIS UPDATE CONTRIBUTE?**

- 2.1 A Central Library and Archives service includes access to literature, information, technology, advice and information, Intellectual Property guidance and more; and gallery spaces which provide inspiration, ideas and heritage to fuel creativity, a concept understood by John Ruskin in the 1870's when he set up the Ruskin Museum in Walkley for Sheffield's working people.

Past discussions on the use of the Central Library/Graves building have demonstrated that many in the city feel very strongly that the building should be central to the city's civic life and it is hoped that the proposal to Strategy and Resources will be approved and a vision for the building can be taken forward.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 There has not been any consultation specifically regarding this report. While undertaking work on a vision for the Central Library and Archives, and the future of the Graves Building, public and organisational consultation and engagement will be essential so that all options can be fully understood

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE REPORT

4.1 Equality Implications

- 4.1.1 There are no equality implications from this briefing report.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no financial implications from this briefing report.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 There are no legal implications from this briefing report.

4.4 Other Implications

- 4.4.1 There are no further implications from this report.

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