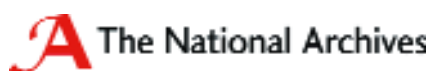


# regenerating places and communities through culture

## case studies



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# regenerating places and communities through culture

## case studies

### Contents

	<b>Foreword</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Overview, and the Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Case Study 1</b>	<b>Shard End Library, Birmingham</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Case Study 2</b>	<b>Wakefield Library, Wakefield</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Case Study 3</b>	<b>Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Case Study 4</b>	<b>Finsbury Creative Hub Platform, Islington</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Case Study 5</b>	<b>Hull History Centre, Hull</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Case Study 6</b>	<b>Cultural Quarter, Letchworth Garden City</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Case Study 7</b>	<b>William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Case Study 8</b>	<b>Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives, Exeter</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Case Study 9</b>	<b>Manchester Central Library, Manchester</b>	<b>12</b>

*Regenerating Places and Communities through Culture. Case Studies*  
Published by the Town and Country Planning Association  
July 2013



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# foreword

Culture and heritage are at the heart of what makes a community successful. Places that are prosperous and sustainable, with healthy and happy local people, are often the ones where the place of culture and heritage in people's lives has been carefully considered. Planning plays a crucial role in making sure that culture and heritage make a real difference, and there is increasing evidence of good practice in this field. Arts Council England and The National Archives are pleased to have worked with the Town and Country Planning Association on the revision of the Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit, and on the creation of these case studies. The case studies feature recent new developments for archives, libraries, museums and arts venues, and highlight the benefits of embedding these buildings within local and area-wide developments.

The case studies highlight how archives, libraries, museums and arts venues can enhance localities in a host of ways, including by creating landmark buildings to showcase important collections, offering new facilities and activities to benefit the community, supporting the visitor economy, and creating a strong sense of place and a focus for a positive expression of local identity.

The case studies feature developments which bring together previously disparate services into one building to provide a stronger offer to the public and more efficient delivery – responsive to local need.

The examples in this publication demonstrate that culture and heritage can be successfully considered in the planning system, and in this way planners and those working in culture and heritage can work with communities to build places where people want to live and work.

**Alan Davey**

Chief Executive, Arts Council England

**Oliver Morley**

Chief Executive and Keeper, The National Archives

# overview

The case studies set out in this document, drawn from a range of recently delivered developments across England, provide key messages for practitioners on the benefits of integrating culture and the arts into regeneration and other area-wide initiatives:

## **Making best use of existing assets**

Existing assets were redeveloped, refurbished or re-used to provide modern and high-quality services and facilities. In some examples, the opportunity to raise funds from the sale of excess assets enabled councils to deliver new development in more suitable locations.

## **Integrating services and facilities**

Integration of culture, arts, council, education, health and social care services and facilities improves the quality of service and accessibility for local communities. This approach has led to a boost in visitor numbers, increased engagement by target groups, and greater customer satisfaction.

## **Reaping benefits for local economies and communities**

Improved facilities and services provided by redevelopment or new build offer demonstrable benefits, both economically and for the wellbeing of communities – widening educational opportunities, improving the visitor economy, and enabling place-based regeneration.

## **Demonstrating locally led initiative and vision**

Places for culture and the arts are recognised as important local centres of attraction, community activity and historical significance. Ensuring that they are developed or redeveloped so that they are fit for purpose for the 21st century and to meet local needs is key to their continuing success.

## **Working in partnership with developers, housing associations and other providers**

The involvement of external partners in wider development plans allows for the risks of funding and delivery to be shared, and, more importantly, it enables culture and arts provision to be integrated into development plans for the benefit of existing and new communities and users.

## **Harnessing the contribution and role of planning**

Planning must play its part in enabling development that provides local benefits, both socially and economically. The planning system has a key role to play in successfully delivering projects such as those illustrated in this document and in the Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit – through positive planning policies and decision-making which identify and recognise specific areas where cultural provision will be an important ingredient in delivering local sustainable development.



## **Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit**

The case studies form part of the Culture and Sport Planning Toolkit (CSPT) – an online resource to help practitioners involved in planning for housing growth and regeneration to deliver cultural and sporting infrastructure. The CSPT is accompanied by a good practice guide, *Improving Culture, Arts and Sporting Opportunities through Planning*. More detailed information on each of the case studies set out here, and many more besides, is available from the CSPT website. The CSPT will be regularly reviewed to ensure that the information, advice and resources it offers are kept up to date and reflect current policy. The CSPT and the good practice guide can be accessed at <http://www.cultureandsportplanningtoolkit.org.uk>

# case study 1

## shard end library, birmingham

A key occupant of the Shard, a landmark building in the heart of Shard End, Shard End Library has been developed as part of a major regeneration project to create a new urban village



### Outcomes

- There has been an increase in visits from 33,350 in 2011 to 68,300 in 2012. New library members have increased by 175% on the previous year, and book loans for the first six months increased by 20%.
- There has been an observed lack of vandalism and a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the area.
- Shard End Library was the winner of the 2012 Mixology North Award for Public Sector Project of the Year, and finalist in the 2012 FX International Design Awards for Public Sector Interior Design. The design team won the Birmingham City Council Chamberlain Award in the 'Excellence in Service Delivery' category.

The wider project, delivered through a partnership between Birmingham City Council and Barratt Homes, involved the redevelopment of part of Shard End Crescent, replacing 100 former properties with nearly 300, providing new retail premises and housing (for both rent and sale) and delivering the iconic building that is The Shard, which opened in April 2012.

Shard End is within the the top 5% of the most deprived communities in England. Before the regeneration project, the built environment was very poor, comprising 1960s social housing blocks of flats and maisonettes, many of which were empty and boarded up. The landscape was also characterised by poor shops and a lack of high-quality public buildings.

Shard End is designated as a Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (SUN) in Birmingham's Draft Core Strategy (now known as the Birmingham Development Plan). SUNs are proposed as areas of regeneration, with the aim of providing exemplary high-quality housing settlements that use low-carbon forms of energy production and promote the best sustainable practices, offering a mix of housing types supported by appropriate community facilities and infrastructure.

The Shard offers a range of services delivered by an integrated and co-located set of Birmingham City Council and third-sector providers. Shard End Library is the key occupant and provides a huge range of services, including loans of books (including books on CD and large-print books), maps, magazines, DVDs, free access to the internet and other electronic resources, IT assistance, local history and genealogy activities, story sessions, child development and toddler play sessions, a café, a work club, an enterprise club, a pop-up cinema, study space, exhibition space, a book club, authors' visits, film-making workshops, a venue for community meetings, and live music and theatre. Other services include a Neighbourhood Office which provides access to City Council services, particularly benefits advice and a Housing Letting Suite.

The Shard building was provided by Barratt Homes as part of the land deal to develop Council-owned sites. The build cost was around £1.4 million, and the fit-out cost was £600,000, funded by the City Council. A range of revenue funding streams have been developed to cover the operation of The Shard and the services it accommodates.

### Further information

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See also: <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/shardendlibrary>

# case study 2

## wakefield library, wakefield

**A new one-stop shop council building, Wakefield One has brought together a range of council services – including a new Library – under one roof, which has yielded savings and new development opportunities for Wakefield Council**



### Outcomes

- The opening of the Library and Museum has transformed the use and perception of the two services, with significant increases in visitors and users.
- The inclusion of the Library and Museum within the Wakefield One building enhances its use as a civic building, and it is becoming an active community hub.
- Transferring the two surplus buildings to Wakefield College and The Art House (subject to confirmation) has enabled Wakefield Council to support the development of the cultural infrastructure in the city centre.

Wakefield One is part of the wider £70 million Merchant Gate regeneration scheme, covering a 17 acre site in Wakefield's commercial quarter, and also providing contemporary new apartments and a multi-storey car park as part of the development. The new building incorporates a new Library, the old Wakefield Museum, a customer access point, a business lounge, a café, and office accommodation. The Library provides a range of services, including a children's library, a reference library, and ICT access. The Museum is located next to the 'local studies' area, to provide a joint service for exploring the district's heritage. Wakefield One was funded solely from the sale of other Council-owned buildings across Wakefield and was opened in October 2012.

In 2007 Wakefield Council committed to building one centrally located office in Wakefield to replace a range of Council offices across the district.

There were originally two libraries in Wakefield – Balne Lane Library, built in the 1960s, and Drury Lane Library, built in 1907 – both of which were in poor condition. A review of city centre library provision

found that neither of the two libraries in Wakefield were fit for purpose. As a result of the economic downturn in 2009, and following a review of options for relocation, it was agreed in July 2011 to relocate the Library to Wakefield One.

It was a similar story for Wakefield Museum. Originally located in the former Mechanics Institute, built in the 1820s and one of Wakefield's most historic buildings situated in the Civic Quarter, it had been the district's main museum since the late 1950s. It was refurbished in 2000 but subsequently visitor figures consistently declined from over 40,000 in 2001 to 20,000 in 2010. In 2011, plans for the Museum were also incorporated into Wakefield One.

Wakefield One cost a total of £31 million to build and fit out with offices, a customer access point, Create Café, the Library, and the Museum. Funding came from the sale of a number of old Wakefield Council buildings across the district. The fit-out cost for the Library and Museum was £1 million, funded by the Council's service-based budget.

### Further information

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See also: <http://www.wakefieldfirst.com/wakefield-one>

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/contactthecouncil/visit/wakefieldone.htm>



## case study 3

# kent history and library centre, maidstone

A new landmark building in Maidstone on unused Kent County Council land has brought library and archive services together in one central location



### Outcomes

- Political will was vital in achieving the goal of creating an exciting new History and Library Centre for Kent. Council members were committed to achieving the ambition for a new archive, in line with Kent County Council's corporate priorities.
- Issues of children's books are up by 28% and teenage fiction by 37%.
- The Kent History and Library Centre building achieved a 'Very Good' BREEAM building sustainability rating.

Kent County Council's History and Library Centre was an exciting and innovative new build project involving the creation of a landmark new building in Maidstone, next to the James Whatman paper mill on unused Council land. As part of the project, four separate services – Maidstone and County Central Public Libraries (including the headquarters function), East Kent Archives, the archive collection at Kings Hill, and the Centre for Kentish Studies – were relocated to the new History and Library Centre, including all associated staff, archives, and files. The project offered an opportunity to integrate the library and archive services, create a new showcase centre, and enhance the cultural offer of the town centre. The new building opened to the public in April 2012 and was officially launched by HRH The Duke of Kent in December 2012.

The main driver for the project was to consolidate the County Archives from three separate centres into one central location. Furthermore, the existing Archive facilities at the Centre for Kentish Studies in County Hall were no longer fit for purpose and were in need of modernisation. Kent's Cultural Strategy encourages Kent to work towards becoming a cultural leader, using its strong cultural offer to demonstrate the area's self-

confidence and adaptability, benefiting not just Kent's cultural life but its wider economic and social outlook too.

The Kent History and Library Centre provides a new state-of-the-art facility for integrated service provision for both Kent Archives (including a public search room, a conservation studio, and strong rooms to house 14 kilometres of archives and records dating back to 699 AD) and Maidstone Public Library (including 40,000 books, CDs, DVDs, book groups and author events, community activities, 25 computers with free internet access, Microsoft Office, Ability net and IT assistance, and local and family history resources (such as maps, photographs, books, and online resources), self-service book issue and return, a photocopier, a print magnifier and volunteering opportunities).

The total cost of the project was £12.25 million, including the build and fit-out. The land was owned by Kent County Council, and the cost was largely met from the sale of the sites that were vacated, plus additional funding from the Council. Key partners include Housing 21 and West Kent Housing, who provided social housing and whose involvement was crucial to the development.

### Further information

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See also: [http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure\\_and\\_culture/kent\\_history/kent\\_history\\_library\\_centre.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/kent_history/kent_history_library_centre.aspx)

# case study 4

## finsbury creative hub platform, islington

A collaborative tri-borough arrangement to develop a creative hub will place arts and culture at the heart of a key regeneration site in North London



### Evaluation will focus on three key areas:

- The economic and regeneration impact of the project on both quantitative and qualitative measures, including the number of redundant buildings brought back into use, the number of training and/or employment opportunities, and the additional leisure spend generated.
- The impact of the breadth and range of opportunities for participants and audiences to engage in the project – outputs will form part of a final exhibition/installation/publication as part of the project.
- The impact of the project on participating artists and arts organisations – evaluation will investigate the benefits of engaging in the project for partner arts organisations and artists.

The ambitious and innovative arts-led Finsbury Park Creative Hub Project regeneration project – led by Islington Council's Arts Service, key arts organisations and private sector businesses in Finsbury Park – will establish a collaborative approach to arts commissioning. The project is due for completion in 2016, although some elements have already been completed, such as the Park Theatre in May 2013.

One of the key challenges for Islington is that, with its high density of arts organisations, the current level of arts infrastructure exceeds recognised minimum levels, as identified in a study commissioned in 2010. As a result and in order to continue to support investment in the arts as a catalyst for change, the Arts Service has had to articulate the broader benefits of arts and culture.

In June 2012, the leaders of the London Boroughs of Hackney, Haringey and Islington met at the newly developed Park Theatre to sign The Finsbury Park Accord – a collaborative institutional arrangement, signifying a joint commitment between the local authorities to work collaboratively on 11 priority areas,

including co-ordinated development and realising the potential of the arts sector.

The project will see a collaborative approach to the commissioning of a range of artists and arts organisations, including: projects developed with local communities to enhance the physical environment through permanent and temporary public art interventions and small-scale events and performances that animate public spaces; the development of the area's arts infrastructure and its connections to local communities (including the John Jones Project Space, the Park Theatre, and the Contemporary Art Platform); and training programmes in line with the Council's worklessness agenda, to support a range of learning and training opportunities for local residents, emerging artists, and young people.

The overall project budget is £345,000. Contributions come from Arts Council England, City North, and John Jones from the private sector, and from the Council's Section 106 planning obligations receipts for community facilities. Strategic planning policy for Finsbury Park is set out in the Council's 2011 adopted Core Strategy.

### Further information

Pete Courtie, Arts and Cultural Development Manager, Partnerships and Employability, Islington Council  
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### See also:

[http://www.islington.gov.uk/services/planning/plan\\_brief\\_major/pol\\_majorproj/Pages/finsbury\\_park.aspx](http://www.islington.gov.uk/services/planning/plan_brief_major/pol_majorproj/Pages/finsbury_park.aspx)



## case study 5

# hull history centre, hull

A new, integrated, state-of-the-art storage and public access facility for Hull's archive collections has been developed within a building which is highly visible and accessible and a significant focus for local pride



### Outcomes

- The building has been awarded Hull Civic Society's Good Mark Award in 2010, a Civic Trust Award in 2011, and a Wood Award, Structural Category in 2010. These awards recognised not only the successful architecture, but also the building's beneficial impact on the community.
- The History Centre offers a wide range of activities, to enhance more traditional research activities.
- In the three years from January 2010 to March 2013 the History Centre had 104,600 visits, representing a doubling of total visits for the constituent services.
- There is a large-scale volunteer programme with upwards of 100 volunteers of varied ages and demographic profiles working on projects.

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Hull History Centre brings together the archive collections held by the City Council and the University of Hull within a landmark building, embedded within the city's regeneration masterplan. It was opened in May 2010.

A survey of users and the general public carried out in November 2000 showed that 96% agreed with proposals to merge the services. A central location was preferred and people indicated that they would use the merged repository joint more often than they currently used the services provided.

The History Centre is situated within a former car park, on two major pedestrian routes proposed by the Hull regeneration masterplan. A new park was also created around the building, making a new public space in the city and forming part of the new Green Walk across the city centre. A pedestrian route along one side of the building provides an intermediate space between the city and the archive and extends the public realm of the History Centre. The Centre houses the archive store, which meets the national archive standard BS 5454, and hosts a range of public facilities, including a lecture theatre, an exhibition area, and meeting rooms,

in addition to the search room, offices, a conservation studio, and a library.

The building's curvaceous exterior structure is built from Baltic timber, making reference to Hull's history as a major port and its long association with Baltic trade. The wood cladding was manufactured in a local workshop, directing investment back into the Hull economy.

The collections housed in the History Centre tell the story of Hull and its people, and include borough archives dating back to 1299 and archives relating to maritime history and to notable local individuals such as William Wilberforce and Amy Johnson. Bringing the collections together in a state-of-the-art building has allowed the History Centre to contribute to city-wide plans to raise educational aspirations and achievement. The new facilities have enabled the service to supplement its traditional research offer with activities to meet the needs of a wide range of people – including lunchtime talks, book clubs, music events, and exhibitions. In addition, the History Centre has capitalised on being a joint City Council and University service by developing a strong volunteer programme to support students and local residents.

### Further information

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See also: <http://www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk>

# case study 6

## cultural quarter, lethworth garden city

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, a self-funding charity that reinvests for the long-term benefit of the local community, is planning a new Cultural Quarter to revitalise the town centre



### Outcomes

- The masterplanning process has been inclusive and robust, which has helped the Heritage Foundation to move swiftly towards the design and delivery phase.
- The investment in the cinema has proved extremely successful, and the programming for alternative content has exceeded expectations.
- The partnership approach, particularly with North Hertfordshire College, has been successful, and the projections for the likely increase in spend resulting from the new school and administrative centre will have a positive impact on the town centre.
- Work to date has resulted in the re-use of existing attractive, but vacant buildings.

A new 'Cultural Quarter' is being created with the aim of positioning Letchworth town centre as 'a place to be'.

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation is a self-funding charity that reinvests for the long-term benefit of the local community. Endowment income, generated mainly from its property portfolio, enables the Heritage Foundation to provide additionality to services and facilities provided by the local council (North Hertfordshire District Council). Existing Heritage Foundation provision includes a cinema and community hub, a museum, and open space, as well as a day hospital, a family farm, a greenway around the town, a mini-bus service, and a tourist information centre.

The new Cultural Quarter will be delivered as part of a programme to revitalise the town and provide an enhanced cultural offer of regional as well as local interest. Rather than trying to create growth in the town centre using a traditional masterplanning approach and anchor retail stores, the focus is on the emphasising the area's existing strengths, a key strength being culture.

The Cultural Quarter is located near Broadway Gardens, an area that has suffered from vacant shops in the past, but is now beginning to thrive again. Coupled with the challenge of accommodating housing growth, research undertaken by Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation found that the local offer for cultural activity is below the potential level of usage, which has been borne out by the popularity of the alternative content now provided by the cinema.

It is proposed that services will be clustered in the centre of the town to form the Cultural Quarter, which will include the Broadway digital cinema (offering traditional cinema and alternative content), the Da Vinci Studio School of Creative Enterprise, accommodation for cultural activity, three exhibition spaces (professional, community and museum), smaller teaching spaces, and rehearsal rooms and studios. A visual arts scheme (town art) has been introduced, and further ideas include using empty retail spaces as temporary galleries if there is demand.

The project is ongoing until around 2018.

### Further information

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See also: <http://www.lethworth.com>  
<http://www.broadway-cinema.com> and <http://www.lethwortharts.org>

# case study 7

## william morris gallery, walthamstow

A Grade II\* listed Georgian villa with surrounding historic gardens has been restored and extended to provide gallery space and is now a regional cultural attraction



### Outcomes

- The historic building has been restored sensitively and extended to enable it to reach its full potential as a regional cultural attraction. In the first nine months the Gallery welcomed over 100,000 visitors. On-site surveys demonstrate that more local people are visiting, while traditional visitors from further afield are also coming in increased numbers. It has been named the Art Fund's Museum of the Year 2013.
- Visitors are also now including the park in their visit, which was not the previously the case for the majority of visits.
- A thriving activity programme attracts diverse families, adults, and younger people. Many local schools make use of the learning spaces to enhance classroom learning.

The William Morris Gallery is a Grade II\* listed Georgian villa, formerly known as Water House and set in extensive gardens (now Lloyd Park), which opened as The William Morris Gallery in 1950. Initial funding for the development plans for the Gallery came from Waltham Forest Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and English Heritage. The scheme was completed in August 2012.

William Morris, who lived in Water House from 1848 to 1856, believed passionately in art and education for all, and was an early pioneer of the town planning movement. His lifelong goal was to bring art, beauty and creativity into the lives of ordinary people, and it is these fundamental principles that underpinned the £5 million Gallery redevelopment. The development was highlighted as a key aim in Waltham Forest's Culture Strategy, *Taking our Place in London*.

Over the past 60 years the displays had become very tired, visitor numbers had dwindled, and few local residents visited. The initial masterplan for improvement centred on the restoration of Lloyd Park, but there was recognition that the Gallery should be integrated into the overall project. One focus of the project was to attract a wide and diverse audience

from across Waltham Forest, in terms of cultural background, age, and income levels.

The Gallery offers a range of services, including 12 permanent galleries containing new and engaging displays in the main galleries, a special exhibitions gallery, improved visitor facilities, a learning centre to accommodate schools and other groups, a basement object store and collection storeroom, a library and archives (use by appointment), rooms for hire, and an events and activity programme.

The Gallery is owned and operated by the London Borough of Waltham Forest. The build cost was £5.3 million. Key funding bodies included the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Monument Trust, and a range of other charitable trusts and foundations. The Gallery continues to attract funding; for example, a grant was recently awarded by Arts Council England to support business development at the Gallery. The Friends of the William Morris Gallery are a key channel for fundraising, and also a partner for programming at the Gallery. The Gallery has been awarded a further grant from Arts Council England for a project to exploit income-generating opportunities, to secure future sustainability.

### Further information

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See also: <http://www.wmgallery.org.uk>

## case study 8

# exeter cathedral library and archives, exeter

**A refurbishment of the West Wing of the Bishop's Palace at Exeter Cathedral now accommodates important historic documents, some dating back to 1050, in one central location accessible to everyone**



### Outcomes

- Upon official completion of the project in summer 2013 success is expected in terms of increased visits to the Library & Archives – with positive feedback from users; more users of the Education Department with positive feedback; increase in income generated, both directly and from soft contributions to the Cathedral; and an increase in the profile of Exeter Cathedral as a visitor destination and a centre of research excellence.

Exeter Cathedral, one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the world, has been undergoing improvement in recent years. It is an iconic building and forms a key part of the city's cultural offer. The redevelopment of the Library & Archives services supports and strengthens the Cathedral's important role in attracting increasing numbers of people, and is referenced in the City Council's Core Strategy as one way of keeping up with increased service demand and maintaining the city's rich heritage.

Facilities, including the Library & Archives, are being enhanced, not only to make sure that visitors have the best possible experience, but also to ensure that the collections are safeguarded and maintained for many years to come. The Library & Archives have been relocated to the ground floor of the West Wing of the Cathedral and now provide a single point of access to all library and archive holdings, as well as a comfortable reading room for research and quiet study, and a secure, climate-controlled strong room to house the archives and pre-1800 library collections. A new Education Centre has also been commissioned and will be completed by summer 2013.

In 2007 Exeter Cathedral was informed by a British Library Preservation Office survey and an audit inspection by The National Archives that the Library & Archives were at serious risk due to inadequate

storage facilities – and that if action were not taken immediately, the collections would suffer irreparable damage. The overarching aim was to ensure that the collections were safeguarded and enhanced for the future and to avoid the loss of any library or archive material. A further objective was to increase visitor numbers and improve the experience for users of the facility.

The Library & Archives now provide an integrated service as a single department from a single site, although retaining the distinct functions of each in terms of collections. All archives and the majority of the library collections (excluding some post-1801 published material) are stored in a secure, climate-controlled repository built to BS 5454 standards (now PD 5454-compliant). Its services and facilities include a reading room for use by library readers and archive researchers (the first time such a dedicated space has been available to users) and curated displays of original material. Undergraduate and postgraduate taught seminars are provided, as well as talks and workshops for adult learners.

A successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund pays for two education officers and an archivist over three years, alongside the conversion of the former Archives into a new education centre and the provision of a new Library & Archives interpretation gallery.

### Further information

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See also: <http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk>



## case study 9

# manchester central library, manchester

**A Grade II\* listed iconic building is being restored to make it fit for purpose as a 21st century modern library to serve both the local community and international visitors**

Manchester Central Library is Grade II\* listed and a world-class reference and lending library, located in Manchester's 'Knowledge Corridor'. The iconic Library (and Town Hall Extension) was designed by Vincent E Harris in 1927 and was officially opened in 1934. It was the country's largest library provided by a local authority and was a spacious, well designed, ultra-modern flagship library – a statement of civic pride and a fitting home for the city's prestigious collections. The Library has been in use for over 75 years by citizens, businesses, students and researchers and has become one of the busiest public libraries in the UK (and the second-largest), serving a city-region of 2.7 million people and many more national and international visitors. The Library transformation scheme is part of a wider £155 million regeneration of the city's civic core, including the neighbouring Town Hall Extension and St Peter's Square. It will re-open in spring 2014.

The new Central Library will be larger – whole floors of the main building will be opened up for public use by removing the old core of the building, which was previously occupied by book stacks. New services will also expand into the Town Hall Extension, with a new link created between the two buildings. There will be two cafés, new toilets and facilities, services such as wifi throughout, performance and events space, community exhibition space, new meeting rooms, and study spaces. A Media Lounge will act as a test bed for new ideas, new software and new ways of thinking to help Manchester connect with the world. Central Library will also house a centre of excellence for Archives in the North West with a new Archives+ partnership.

Archives+ is a key component of the library. It is a collaboration of local archive partners who will work together to showcase the city's local, community, family, industrial and political history all under one roof. Paper-based, film, digital and other resources will be expertly managed and stored in the new Library. Exhibitions, film booths, learning areas and digital



### Outcomes

- One early success of the project is that Laing O'Rourke and other contractors involved in the project have created 66 new apprenticeships and are supporting 19 existing apprenticeships.

interactivities will provide an insight into Manchester's fascinating history, making it easier than ever before for people to connect with their ancestors, their heritage, and shared histories.

The £48 million Library and Civic Complex transformation is funded largely by Manchester City Council. A grant has been received from the Wolfson Foundation, which will allow culture managers to carry out work which was on their 'wish list' but not previously budgeted for. The Archives+ project is supported by a £1.6 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In addition, an independent charity and trading subsidiary – Manchester Central Library Development Trust – has been established to enhance elements of the capital project and to help develop new income streams to support future Library activity. The Trust will promote learning, archives, advice, information and other related services and facilities provided by the Central Library.

### Further information

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See also: [http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/6222/central\\_library\\_to\\_form\\_new\\_development\\_trust](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/6222/central_library_to_form_new_development_trust)