

PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

Proposal Name: Identifying the future role of Central Library and Graves Gallery Building

EIA ID: 2466

EIA Author: Rebecca Maddox

Proposal Outline: Central Library/Graves Gallery building is a beloved Sheffield landmark which needs to be reimagined for the future. Members need good information on the feasibility of various options for its future, to help decide a way forward. A vision and location for Central Library and Archive services are an integral part of this process. Resources for some external repairs are required immediately to allow the building to remain operational. A way forward with potential timeline is set out for Member discussion and approval.

Proposal Type: Non-Budget

Year Of Proposal: 23/24

Lead Director for proposal: Diana Buckley (CEX)

Service Area: Economy, Skills and Culture

EIA Start Date: 21/12/2023

Lead Equality Objective: Break the cycle and improve life chances

Equality Lead Officer: Ed Sexton

Committees:

Policy Committees

- Strategy & Resources

Portfolio

Primary Portfolio:

City Futures

EIA is cross portfolio:

No

EIA is joint with another organisation:

No

Overview of Impact

Overview Summary:

Public libraries play a key role in providing low-cost access to knowledge, information, and leisure activities; a warm and safe environment for study and social interaction; and essential access to computers for study, work, job applications, other transactions and leisure. The Central Library fulfils all these roles and more, and these functions are essential for the wellbeing of citizens from across Sheffield. Sheffield Archives hold the stories of the city and underpin our heritage and history. The Dig Where You Stand project with the University of Sheffield is carrying out work of national importance on decolonising the Archives, finding untold stories and widening the range of material being collected. Free access to art and creativity is essential for individuals and communities to thrive, for learning, skills development and cohesion. Galleries and public libraries are also a key part of the city centre visitor economy offer. The current Central Library building has poor access and amenities for those with restricted mobility, including steps, inadequate lift access and a lack of accessible toilets.

Impacted characteristics:

- Age
- Religion
- Disability

Consultation and other engagement

Cumulative Impact

Does the proposal have a cumulative impact:

Yes

At this stage, we are asking Members to agree a process for gaining more information, including on the views of Sheffield people and organisations, regarding the future of Central Library/Archives provision and the current Central Library/Graves building. There have been many individual conversations, plus a campaign by The Star, seeking progress for the building, so the need for this direction of travel seems evident. While undertaking work on a vision for the Central Library and Archives, and the future of the Graves Building, public and organisational consultation will be essential so that all options can be fully understood

Impact areas:

Year on Year, Across a Community of Identity/Interest

Initial Sign-Off

Full impact assessment required:

No

Review Date:

27/11/2023

Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

Outline of action plan:

Action plan evidence:

Changes made as a result of action plan:

Mitigation

Significant risk after mitigation measures:

Outline of impact and risks:

Review Date

Review Date:

27/11/2023