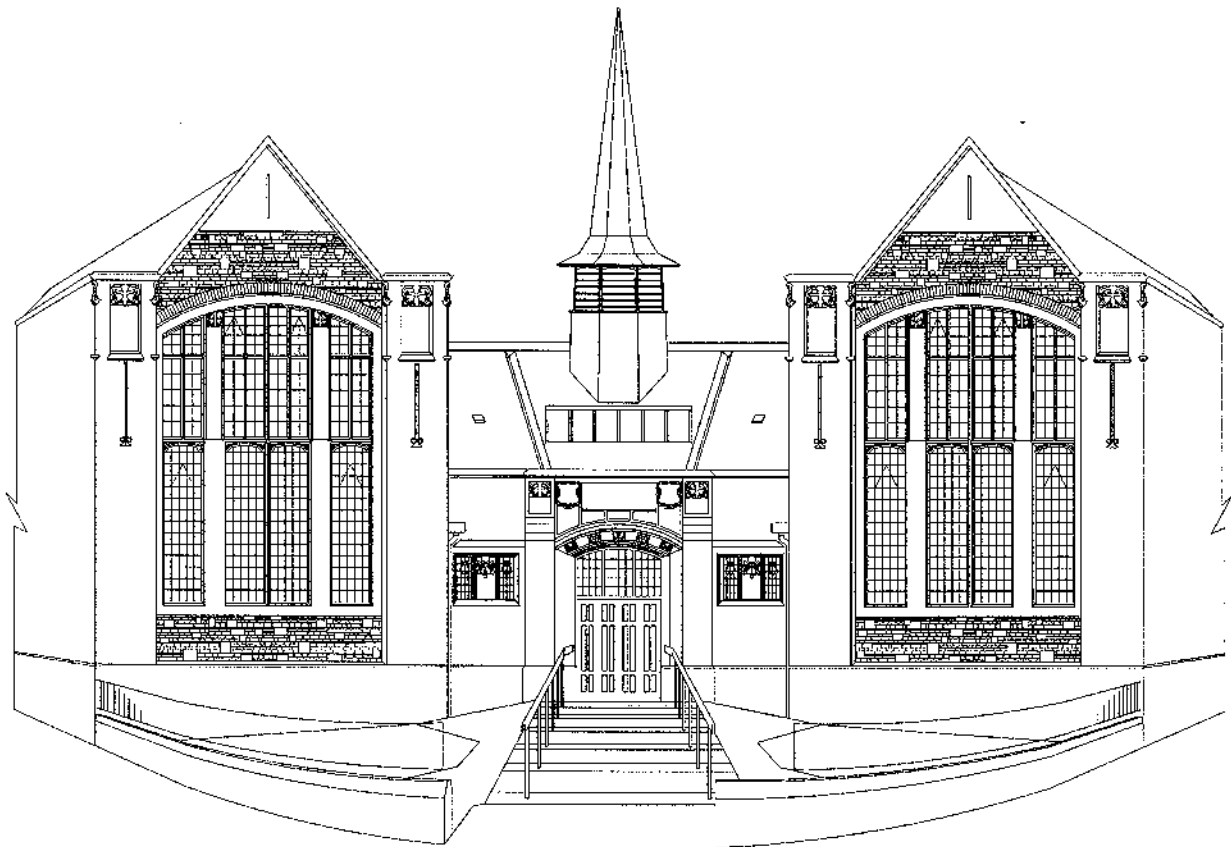


# Cathays Library Refurbishment

## Operational Statement



## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This statement has been compiled by the applicant (Culture, Leisure and Parks Services, Cardiff City Council) and provides background information on the management and operation of the library building and services. It will outline the aims of the organisation and will explain how the library operates. It will also provide further details about the proposed refurbishments and how this will enhance the operation of the facility.

## 2.0 Existing Facilities & Operations Within The Library

2.1 Cathays Library is one of the branch library facilities managed by the Culture, Leisure & Parks service area of Cardiff Council. The Library is a large stone built Grade II\* listed building which opened in 1907 and is situated on Fair Oak Road at the junction with Whitchurch Road. Despite two minor internal refurbishments in 1980 & 1993 the building is in very poor condition and in need of substantial upgrade to make it fit for purpose.

2.2 The building's total gross internal floor space is 529m<sup>2</sup>. The area currently used for library provision is 292m<sup>2</sup>. The west wing of the building, which was used as an old stacks area, is unused as it is in a poor state of repair made worse by an arson attack approximately ten years ago.

2.3 The Library is open 48.5 hours per week<sup>1</sup>. The staffing establishment for the building is 3.5 FTEs<sup>2</sup>. There are currently no plans to increase either of these.

2.4 In addition to providing a range of books and information, Cathays Library has 11 Public Access PCs providing internet access and word processing facilities free of charge which generated 24,793 half hours sessions in 2007/08. Visits for 2007/2008 totalled 36,978 and issues 48,260 items.

2.5 Cardiff Council is committed to upgrading and improving the services offered at the facility and has allocated £900,000 Capital funding for a three year programme; (£50k in 2008/09; £730k in 2009/2010 and £120k in 2010/2011).

## 3.0 Proposed Improvements To The Building & Enhancements Of The Facilities

3.1 The proposed refurbishment includes essential repair and upgrade to the fabric of the building. In addition, service improvements will include:-

- Full accessible DDA compliant public toilets
- A new Community Room which can be hired by local community groups
- The re-opening of the west wing which will increase the library floor space by 120m<sup>2</sup>
- The inclusion of an ICT suite and increase of free Public Access facilities
- Improved disabled access to the entrance by upgrading the current ramp to DDA compliance
- Improved planting and pathways at the front of the building, including installation of bicycle racks.

#### 4.0 Opening hours

Mon	9 - 1	2 - 6
Tue	9 - 1	2 - 7
Wed	9 - 1	2 - 6
Thu	9 - 1	2 - 6
Fri	9 - 1	2 - 6
Sat	9 - 1	2 - 5.30

#### 5.0 Staffing Establishment

1 x senior branch librarian - scale 6  
0.5 x senior library assistant scale 2  
2 x library assistant scale 1