



Focus of works

A delivery board has been established to oversee the project. The focus of the work will be on the necessary repairs to bring the building back into use within the project timeframes, with consideration given to enhancements that will deliver clear benefits for the Assembly Rooms.

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New Assembly Rooms Feasibility Stage



Derby City Council



The shopping pattern of consumers has been changing from the traditional retail high street to online shopping which has had a negative knock-on effect on Derby city centre.

Derby City Council and private sector partners in the Vibrant City Partnership developed the Derby City Centre Masterplan 2030 to diversify the offerings to include entertainment, work, leisure and eating/drinking.

A live entertainment venue, coupled with facilities for conferences and exhibitions, in the heart of the city centre, was the linchpin they conceptualised to anchor the revival of the day time and night time economies. The former entertainment venue – the Assembly Rooms which closed in 2014 due to a fire – is to be reincarnated into the New Assembly Rooms to bring entertainment that Derbians love back into the heart of the city.

Work has started on a re-focused project to bring the Assembly Rooms back into use as the premier live entertainment venue in the city centre. The aim is to have the Assembly Rooms open within 12 to 18 months.

Initial work

The extent and cost of the refurbishment that is required is to be determined by two essential bodies of work. Firstly, a building survey will identify the essential repairs required to re-open the building. It will also scope desirable improvements.

Secondly, an architect led feasibility study involving a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and experts will determine the scope of work, the programme of works, the timeline and the cost. The study will consider how the user experience of the Assembly Rooms can be enhanced and how regeneration benefits can be captured.

This work is expected to be carried out between July and October 2018 by a team of multi-disciplinary consultants. The outcome from this work will inform a Council decision in early autumn 2018 on how the project progresses.

As part of the initial work, we are engaging with key stakeholders to gain their views on the project focusing on three areas for discussion:

What do you see as the key challenges and opportunities with the Assembly Rooms? What are your expectations of how a refurbished facility will help your business or operation?

How can the new Assembly Rooms complement and enhance the wider cultural and business offer in the city? What do you see is needed to boost your business or operation?

How can the new Assembly Rooms contribute towards city centre regeneration? What is your perspective about the value of a refurbished facility to the day and night time economies of the city centre?

