

REPORT TO THE REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL – 21 JULY 2022

MULTI USER COMMUNITY HUB ‘MUCH’ PROJECT

The Programme team from Norfolk county council will present an update to the panel on the “MUCH” project. The Project has completed RIBA stage one (preparation and brief stage: including feasibility studies and surveys). The presentation will focus on the following key areas and highlight to Members the ways in which the MUCH will become a flagship library and learning centre in King’s Lynn.

The presentation by officers will cover the following:

- Background, Vision and Purpose
 - o Overview of the research undertaken to demonstrate need and interest, and refresh on the vision and purpose
 - o *The slide deck circulated in advance will include background slides covering how the project aligns with the Strategic ambitions BCKLWN and NCC, and background data supporting this including research and stakeholders views. These will be attached as appendices to the presentation.*
- What the project will deliver for the Town:
 - o An overview of the RIBA one feasibility concept designs of the site, including how the new building footprint will allow the creation of a public plaza and reveal the Majestic cinema
 - o An overview of the NCC funded Library operating model that will be brought into the Town Centre, and enhancements planned for KLWN
 - o An overview of the NCC funded Adult Learning operating model that will be anchored in the space, and enhancements planned for KLWN
 - o An overview of the partnerships, old and new, that will be drawn into the Town Centre as part of this project.
- Bringing the concept to life:
 - o User journeys to demonstrate how residents could use the space, facilities and programme

General Project Update

- Plans for the Town Deal Multi-User Community Hub remain on track, with RIBA one (concept and feasibility) completed. The architects have included impressions for the look and feel of the site, as well as indicative proposals for floor plans that will be further refined in RIBA stages two and three. At RIBA one all images are indicative to highlight the feasibility of the space use only, and are not developed or final designs.
- The community hub is already generating positive media interest, including in Your Local Paper: [Making a place to help us thrive - Your Local Paper](#)
- The project team presented at the recent King’s Lynn Skills Forum, and the participants described the potential of the space as being truly inspirational

and unlike anything found in the UK, comparing it with the pioneering Boston Public Library

- Engagement activity will include ‘co-design’ sessions with key groups such as young people, to ensure services and programmes are designed for them, by them
- Reviews of the concept designs to date have been overwhelmingly positive – for example the current library staff have commented that initial designs:
 - Will remove significant disabled access and safeguarding issues present in the current library
 - Will allow them to significantly increase capacity of their most popular activities, such as bounce and rhyme
 - Will allow a greater number of partnerships and services to operate and flourish within the building
 - Will allow simultaneous activities to take place for a ‘full family offer’, so (for example) parents can bring young children to bounce and rhyme, whilst their teenagers attended a board games session or work on homework.
- Programming streams focussed on skills, business, health, art, and culture are in development
- Partnerships currently being formed as part of early stages of programming work include MIND, NHS, Public Health, CoWA, UEA, Youth Retraining Pledge

Indicative timescales

- July 2022: Governance body briefings on RIBA 1
- August-September 2022: Governance body briefings on finalised business case
- Summer-Autumn 2022: Define programming partnerships
- October 2022: NCC Cabinet report
- Winter 2022: Construction Coordinator and Clerk of Works appointed
- Spring 2023: Contractor appointed
- Spring 2023: NCC Cabinet report on tender appointments
- Spring 2023: Initial community co-design workshops
- Summer 2023: RIBA 2 completion and governance body briefings
- Summer 2023: Engagement activities on application process for communities interested in Carnegie (further detail to be published nearer the time)
- Winter 2023: RIBA 3 completion and governance body briefings
- Spring 2024: RIBA 4 completion and governance body briefings
- Late mid 2024 construction starts
- MUCH opening Autumn 2025

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