



APPENDIX G New Baildon Library and Cultural Centre

Draft March 2025

BAILDON LIBRARY AND CULTURAL CENTRE – THE VISION

What is the opportunity of the Baildon Club refurbishment scheme?

- **Converting the former Baildon Club into the “Baildon Library and Cultural Centre”** is a major scheme which presents a ‘once in a generation’ opportunity to create a lasting and valuable community asset in the very heart of Baildon Centre. It is a **major scheme which would incorporate the library service, Baildon Town Council and much more.**
- The former Baildon Club was built in 1885 and is in a **primary frontage position** right in the centre of Baildon – its development is absolutely pivotal to the quality of the public realm, the local economy and local identity. This project will bring a **designated heritage asset** back into sustainable community use. .
- It will offer a **community-focussed flexible library service, including local history**, and a large **flexible space for cultural activities** such as events, exhibitions, music, creative activities and community meetings.
- A place for **people to engage with Baildon and Bradford Councils; get involved, provide feedback, solve problems and take part** in local democracy. It will be an Information and visitor centre for Baildon.

Baildon Library and Cultural Centre has a projected footfall of 60,000 people per annum

How could the Baildon Library and Cultural Centre work?

It is anticipated that Bradford Council may give a long lease to Baildon Town Council who would provide core revenue funding supplemented by income streams, with employed staff based in the Centre. A creative mixture of fee charging activities, refreshment sales, events and grant aided cultural and creative activities would be developed. The Centre would be a place to deliver the legacy of City of Culture and to support Bradford’s National Portfolio Organisation’s deliverables for Arts Council England. **Community engagement** will be substantially increased with the myriad of activities, groups, societies and organisations using the spaces. It could be a base for outreach and on-site programming promoting community cohesion and wellbeing, reaching excluded people and those who find it difficult to engage.

- ✓ **Hire.** One-off hires, hot desking, micro businesses creating a base or an address.
- ✓ **Hospitality** Vending, pop-ups, support kitchen for hire, links to Baildon Market and village centre events. Base for Emergency Planning.
- ✓ **Programme of events, exhibitions and activities** – all kinds of cultural and creative activities some may attract grant aid, some charge. Tie-ins with local history, family history and Civic Society, artists in residence, pop-up demonstrations and travelling exhibitions.
- ✓ **Local sponsorship and membership** – could be built up for this prestigious new development eg. room and programme naming, event sponsorship.

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What is the Opportunity of this location?

- **The location** is right in the historic heart of the Baildon community, near public transport connections, near traders, near market and near parking.
- **The space** – a range of flexible small and large well-equipped spaces for a wide ranging of community activity and commercial opportunities.
- **The people** - library and town council staff and volunteers on hand to facilitate friendly, warm access.
- **The governance model** – the Town Council and Bradford Libraries have a good track record of working flexibly and creatively in partnership.