

The architectural brief – a summary

The redevelopment of Perth City Hall with its central location in the City will provide a world-class cultural attraction. Perth's total projected visitor market size is 4.8 million. The interpretative concept which has been developed to respond to the market opportunity is 'Ancient Roots, Modern Scots', showcasing the story of Perth's role in the forging of the Kingdom of Alba and the Scottish nation and Perth's modern Scottish pioneers and their role in shaping 20th and 21st century Scotland. City Hall will also provide space for large scale visual art and heritage touring exhibitions of UK and international significance, complementing the focus on design at V&A Dundee.

The design needs to:

- Demonstrate sensitivity to the existing building and its B Listed status whilst providing a contemporary design solution for its new purpose
- Demonstrate sensitivity to the wider public realm and the setting of St John's Kirk, whilst developing a new attraction in this historic part of the city with capacity for day and evening use of exhibition space and catering facilities
- Display outstanding architectural quality
- Be economical to construct and maintain, using renewable technologies where possible
- Remove barriers to access and provide open and inviting spaces and facilities for all
- Provide open, flexible spaces for display of the permanent collections as well as major loans and future acquisitions, meeting all required collections care, environmental and security standards
- Enhance the surrounding public space, highlight key routes through the city centre and complement potential investment in adjacent buildings

The building must include:

- Total exhibition space of 1,500m², consisting of a main gallery and satellite galleries
- Support for interactive displays which enable innovative interpretation approaches, including digital content, and emerging technologies including virtual reality
- A Learning Suite
- High-quality visitor facilities including a café/bar and retail space
- Access for large or complex works and museum objects
- Space for the handling and temporary storage of collections and loan material
- Offices, plant room, circulation space, staff room/kitchen
- Toilets including accessible disabled toilets and Changing Places facilities

Perth & Kinross Council is seeking an architectural team with the appropriate skills and experience for the project, who can demonstrate outstanding architectural and creative ability. They must understand the full project life cycle including affordability, buildability and future maintenance costs; and they should be able support funding bids to third parties.