



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government

Transformation Capital Grant Programme 2024/25
Expression of Interest Application Form

Note

You must use this form to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Transformation Capital Grant Programme.

You should read the EOI Criteria guidance before completing this form. Please complete all sections of the form. Incomplete forms may not be accepted.

If your EOI is successful we will invite you to develop and submit a full application. Please note that a successful EOI does not guarantee that we will fund your project.

Send your completed EOI to culture@gov.wales by 5pm 22nd September 2023. We will not accept applications after this date.

The Welsh Government takes the protection of your data seriously. We may share any data you provide to us with fraud prevention agencies and third parties for the purposes of preventing and detecting fraud. Any personal data we collect will be managed in accordance with our Privacy Notice which is available to view here: [Welsh Government privacy notice | GOV.WALES](#)

Expression of Interest

Please note, incomplete Application Forms will not be taken forward to stage 2

Project Summary

300 words

Project title Development of new Aberaeron Library

Please indicate which funding band your project falls within:

Band A (£50,000 - £150,000) ☐

Band B (£150,001 - £300,000) ☒

Priority of project

(If submitting more than one application **you must** indicate the priority of each project on an organisation wide basis, with 1 / 2 being the highest priority, 2 / 2 the second priority.)

About your Organisation

Name of parent organisation: Ceredigion County Council

Name of service: Customer Contact, ICT and Digital, Aberaeron Library

Type of service: Library

Museum (Accredited or Working Towards Accreditation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Archive (Accredited or Working Towards Accreditation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library (please choose one option)	
Local authority public library services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trusts / not for profit companies delivering an authority-wide library service on behalf of the local authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community libraries that are supported by the local authority and are part of the statutory service (I confirm the relevant LA are aware and in support of our application)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Independent community libraries that are not part of the statutory service	<input type="checkbox"/>

Main contact for the project

Name Ceredigion Official 1

Address:

Llyfrgell Ceredigion Library
Canolfan Alun R. Edwards
Queen's Square
Aberystwyth
SY23 2EB

Email Ceredigion Official 1

Telephone

Service address, if different from main contact:

Is your organisation VAT registered?

Yes ☒

No ☐

If yes, what is your VAT registration number?

GB 655 553 027

Is your organisation a registered charity, charitable incorporated organisation or community interest company?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, please note your registration number and status.

Project overview

The current library is unsustainable, being the only service left in an old and increasingly inefficient building needing significant maintenance and upkeep.

We are seeking funding to support the refit of a wing of our modern and very sustainable corporate headquarters to integrate library services into the heart of our citizen support and engagement work.

The new facility would link wider service provision across customer support and social care; it would improve the library offering, ease of access and provide improved collection space as well as allowing the development of additional support services such as a maker space, work areas and community training and meeting spaces.

The new facility would have the added benefits of improved accessibility will appeal to a wider audience and therefore we expect to improve footfall.

Alongside the new provision and outside of this grant application will be a new dedicated Through Age and Wellbeing provision to support those needing assisted living aids with signposting to wider services.

Project description (maximum 300 words)

The current library is unsustainable, being the only service left in an old inefficient building needing significant maintenance and upkeep.

We are seeking funding to support the move of the library to our modern headquarters and to refit an area of our ground floor immediately off the main entrance. This will embed library services into the heart of our citizen support and engagement work.

The new facility would link wider service provision across customer support and social care; it would improve the library offering, improve access and provide improved collection space. The additional space will allow the development of additional support services such as a maker space, work areas and community training and meeting spaces.

Alongside the new provision and outside of this grant application will be a new dedicated support centre designed to support those needing assisted living aids, training for their families and carer and additional signposting to wider services.

Please briefly but clearly describe what the project is about, what improvements will be made, why these are needed, and the intended outcomes of the work. (Further detail can be provided in subsequent sections).

Project location

Building name: Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion

Address: Penmorfa, Aberaeron, Ceredigion, SA46 0PA

Please provide details of the opening hours for the service point covered by the project:

Monday	09:00-13:00 and 14:00-18:00
Tuesday	09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00
Wednesday	09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00
Thursday	09:00-13:00 and 14:00-17:00
Friday	09:00-13:00 and 14:00-16:30
Saturday	10:00-12:00

Is the building solely used as a museum, archive or library?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If no, please provide details of shared use:

Does your organisation own or rent the building / location?

Own ☒

Rent ☐

If you rent the building, who is the owner?

If you rent the building, how many years are left on the lease?

Project timescale

Please outline the proposed timescale for your project. We may consider funding projects over 2 financial years. Please let us know if you would like us to consider this for your project and outline the reasons for your request.

Yes ☒

No ☐

Proposed Start Date: 01/04/2024

Likely End Date: 31/03/2025

Reasons for Request for 2 year award: Building Contractors in high demand and costs may increase during tender if we were to require a quick start. We identified this as a small risk but would want to see this completed in the first year if possible.

If the answer to the above was 'No' please confirm that all grant funded project elements will commence after 1 April 2024 and be completed by 31st March 2025:

Yes ☐ No ☐

Does your project involve a listed building or a scheduled ancient monument?

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, please provide details.

Does your project need Planning Permission or Listed Building Consent to proceed?

Yes ☐

No ☒

Please provide evidence of the planning / consent requirements for your project, including any arrangements for obtaining the necessary permissions, and when these will be in place:

Please note: projects without necessary permissions in place at stage 2 will be rejected.

Project costs

Total project cost	£360k
Grant requested from Welsh Government	£300k
Other sources of funding (min 10%)	£60k

Applicants must provide **at least** 10% of total project costs as match-funding towards the project. Please note, we are aware that some proposals may experience increased costs between, EoI, full application, and award stages as a result of the prevailing economic conditions. We are willing to consider such cost increases where evidence of the reason for the cost increase can be clearly demonstrated. Any requests for increases in the cost of projects made after the award stage, will need to be formally submitted and considered on a case-by-case basis. Match funding contributions must also increase in-line with any

agreed cost increases to maintain **at least** 10% contribution of total project costs. The 10% contribution from Local Authority organisations **must be financial**.

Please explain arrangements for obtaining the necessary minimum 10% match-funding, and when this will be confirmed:

£60k from service budget

You must contact the relevant sector advisor in Culture Division prior to submission of your EoI to discuss this project. Can you confirm you have done so

Yes ☒

No ☐

Advice

What other advice have you sought for this project? Please provide details.

This project has been discussed with strategic directors and chief executive to ensure strategic alignment.

We have involved our Estates, Property Services specialists to consider building works needed and to estimate costs.

Our library services and customer services management team have discussed and consider how these plans can improve and protect our service delivery.

FG Library & Learning – Library designers

Designing Libraries website.

Museums which require the support of a Mentor under the Museum Accreditation Standard must confirm that they have consulted their mentor and provide evidence of this.

Priority criteria

Please explain how your proposed project will deliver against the Welsh Government - Programme for Government (2021-2026) and the Transformation Capital Grants scheme EOI priority criteria (please refer to section 6, pages 5-9 for guidance).

1. Sustainable Development (maximum 250 words)

Please summarise how your proposals will develop a more sustainable model of service delivery in line with the criteria set out in the guidance.

The key reasoning behind this project is to ensure long term sustainability and to co-location of supportive services into a modern, efficient, and sustainable building.

The new library would sit at the main entrance to our council headquarters, clearly demonstrating the commitment to library services, with shared access to a customer Services hub, and next to a new through age and Wellbeing centre dedicated to supporting assisted living, carers and home care support. The combined services would offer help, digital & educational opportunities, and early intervention services to residents in the area.

We have engaged with our property services to assess construction costs and sustainability issues with the current building infrastructure. Estimated costs on the new work and our planning department to ensure full consideration of the project.

Relocation of the library from the Grade II listed Aberaeron Town Hall (1846) to the council's headquarters in Penmorfa will provide substantial improvements to the library's sustainable credentials. The existing building is constructed from uninsulated dark rubble stone walls with single glazed sliding sash windows, whereas the new library location benefits from insulated cavity walls and double-glazed fenestration. The property is heated by means of a district heat network powered by a biomass boiler within the site. The property also benefits from a 50kw PV array, which provides approximately 45,000kWh of green electricity. In addition to the above, the new library will be able to provide the service users with direct access to 4No 22kW EV fast chargers.

The site also benefits from cycle parking, sits on the main bus route with dedicated bus stops and benefits from pedestrian access to a primary school and safe walking routes.

2. People (maximum 250 words)

Please summarise how your proposals will enhance services to people and communities in line with the criteria set in the guidance document.

We will introduce a Maker space, a maker space is a physical location where people

gather to co-create, share resources and knowledge, work on projects, network, and build. They help develop skills with the STEM agenda. The space will include a 3D printer, VR headsets, Robotics and Coding classes, this would be our first one in Ceredigion Libraries, and would follow on from the excellent classes held for us by the University. We would bring in partners to hold the sessions for us, whilst building up our own staff's skills. It would be a room dedicated to skills development, which will facilitate both analogue (low-tech) and digital (high tech) creation. and we would also continue our successful Lego club and purchase more Lego. The room will play a pivotal role in supporting and promoting digital literacy in the community.

We will also include 2 digital rooms that the public can contact council staff or gain help on matters mirroring the 12 focused areas of need in our Through Age and Well-Being strategy. These can also be used for studying or work purposes.

Car parking is very difficult within the town Centre, Penmorfa has ample free parking spaces, In the Future Uses in Council Buildings consultation, 86% of people said that car parking is important or very important when accessing council services. In the same consultation we asked where would you like to access services within Aberaeron? Penmorfa came first on the list with 55%, followed by County Hall in second.

3. Collections (maximum 250 words)

Please summarise how your proposals will improve collections development, care or access in line with the criteria set in the guidance document.

Basing the mobile library (South) in the building would mean we bring an offline service online at the start and the end of the day. This would enhance the county collection by having another branch live. This will improve our request satisfaction rate and our stock rotation programme. Currently the van is only live during the 5th week of the month, if a month has a fifth week, when the van comes to the Glanyrafon depot.

The increased floorspace would enable us to have a bigger children's library and make it a more attractive and desirable place for children and their carers to visit. Taking advantage of the fact that the new location is used as a drop off and pick up location for the local school.

It would also enable us to have a dedicated health and Well-being section within the library, tying our book stock in with local events and guidance on particular issues e.g., dementia. It would give us room to display our dementia kit boxes.

The new IT suite and Maker space will allow us to hold more user education sessions and target specific groups within the community. For instance, digital

literacy classes. We can also hold sessions on our digital collections, and help people gain access to what is becoming a more vital service. We would also have space for people to bring their own devices, and work within the library space with free wi-fi and wi-fi print technology.

4. Strategic Fit (maximum 200 words)

Please summarise how your proposals will deliver against strategic priorities and outcomes, in line with local and national policies, strategies and legislation, including but not limited to:

- Programme for Government (2021-2026)
- Well-being of Future Generations Act

Our corporate strategy outlines 4 core objectives with clear linkage into the program for government and future generations.

- Boosting the Economy, Supporting Businesses and Enabling Employment
- Creating Caring and Healthy Communities
- Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages
- Creating Sustainable, Green and Well-connected Communities

The existing library uses approximately 1/5 of a large inefficient building which requires substantial investment to sustain. It requires modernisation and investment to attract business and employment opportunities. The libraries position within the building limits these options.

Through the co-location of services in our corporate headquarters we can create a modern, sustainable location offering a range of supporting services, educational opportunities, and early intervention support to benefit all our citizens.

Co-located on the same site as a primary school, care home, police station and new children's home the library will be able to offer benefits to a range of citizens needs. It will contain a customer services hub and offer a range of services creating a caring and healthy community and encouraging the best start in life.

The new library will offer increased floor space to allow dedicated learning opportunities, maker space, increased digital and work areas as well as a larger and improved collection space.

With links to the primary school, easy access for parking, disabled access and easy location on bus routes, cycling and safe pedestrian access this project clearly aligns to our core strategic objectives.

5. Standards (maximum 200 words)

Please summarise how your proposals will help maintain and develop the quality of services, in line with relevant standards, schemes and legislation in line with the criteria set in the guidance document.

The new library will be larger, modern, light and welcoming. It will have excellent parking, with charging and disabled access. It will have a biomass boiler, double glazing, cavity insulation and solar panels. Improving our sustainable credentials substantially. This will enable us to improve our services under WPLSCE 4,5, and 13.

It will enable us to target groups with special requirements, and act as a first point of contact for our through Age Programme. The improved ICT offering will allow us to provide better support for digital skills, which will also enable us to hold more classes on a wider range of topics in a space that is specifically designed for the purpose. Helping us with WPLSQI 5.

We are the only service within our current building, Penmorfa would allow us to link to wider service provision across customer support and social care, having a wider selection of partners in the building. Helping us with WPLSCE 10.

The enhanced space will allow us to provide a dedicated section for Health and Well-Being helping us with WPLSQI 4, and will allow us to properly showcase our collections, particularly on Dementia.

Declaration by Applicant

On behalf of the governing body, I confirm that I am an authorised signatory. I confirm that the work described has not started and to the best of my knowledge and belief the application information is correct.

Name

Position:

Address: Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE

Email: Ceredigion Official 2

Phone:

Signature:

Date: 22/09/2023