



# Making better use of Stoke Newington Town Hall and surrounds

June – August 2017

## Making better use of Stoke Newington Town Hall and surrounds

Hackney Council wants to make better use of the historic Stoke Newington Town Hall, Library and the under-used buildings and space to the rear, to ensure that the buildings have a vibrant and sustainable future.

It is expensive for the Council to maintain these buildings and their community functions. In recent years the Council has spent over £5 million refurbishing these buildings, and more maintenance work is needed. Over the coming years it is estimated that the Council will need to spend a further £10 million on additional work to protect and maintain these important community and heritage assets.

Using responses from a consultation carried out during October 2016, the Council has set out a number of potential new uses and improvements for Stoke Newington Town Hall and surrounds which have been used to create a draft Planning and Design Guidance document; copies of which can be found at all Hackney libraries and at [www.hackney.gov.uk/spd](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/spd) along with links to all other documents referenced within this consultation.

This consultation summary outlines the suggested changes to how various parts of Stoke Newington Town Hall, Library and rear could be used, subject to planning and/or listed building consent in many cases. These changes are only suggestions and may not form the final uses for the buildings. The Council wants to hear the views of residents on these suggested changes of use before finalising the Planning & Design Guidance document. Please read this document carefully before completing the survey and returning it in the freepost envelope provided.



Complete the questionnaire and return it to us by **14 August 2017** to **FREEPOST HACKNEY GROWTH DELIVERY TEAM** or fill the questionnaire out online at [consultation.hackney.gov.uk](http://consultation.hackney.gov.uk)

Email your comments to [deliveryteam@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:deliveryteam@hackney.gov.uk)

Call us on **02083561318**

Visit our website at [www.hackney.gov.uk/spd](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/spd)

## The Town Hall and Municipal Offices

### Existing Use

**Ground & First Floors** – Many Ground Floor offices are either vacant or have Council offices which can be relocated.

### Recommended Use

**Ground & First Floors** – The Ground and First Floors are suitable for:

- Flexible workspace and/or studios. Potential for open plan offices, studios and ‘maker spaces’.
- The Ground Floor could provide space for various non-residential uses such as an education facility or a health clinic.

It is recommended that the use of the following areas remain the same (or be restored where not currently in use):

**Basement** – continued use by the Council’s CCTV and Emergency Planning Services

**Council Chamber** – retained as a space for weddings, ceremonies and celebrations. Scope to increase use for events such as seminars, exhibitions and networking events.

## The Assembly Hall

### Existing Use

The Assembly Hall is used for a variety of events including weddings, conferences and the Stoke Newington Literary Festival.

### Recommended Use

- Increase use for events such as seminars, festivals, live performances and networking events.

## Stoke Newington Public Library

### Existing Use

The Public Library is popular and well used, currently offering a wide range of services including borrowing books, a children’s library, desk space and free computer/internet access.

### Recommended Use

Both the main and children’s library are to be retained in their current use, however there is potential to introduce exhibition space, a small café, vending machines or self-service Amazon Lockers in the Library’s foyer.

## Stoke Newington Public Library First Floor (Ancillary Rooms)

### Existing Use

**First Floor** – Mainly used as the Library staff room and artist studio space.

### Recommended Use

**First Floor** – Studio / office space to be retained, extended to the staff room.

**Gallery** – Available for hire by the public for art exhibitions, theatre productions and community meetings. There is scope to increase such use.

## The Former Reference Library

Existing Use	Recommended Use
<p>Currently used by the Council’s Community Service Library primarily as a warehouse for the Service with an adjoining room used as an office. This space is currently not open to the public.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the Community Service Library is relocated to an alternative fit-for-purpose location, with the area opened for public use. Future use could be combined with the use of the adjacent Assembly Hall and / or with the rear bar and kitchen that adjoin the Assembly Hall. Two possible uses have been identified for the space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurant and café / drinking establishment, with an independent occupier using the space as a café, restaurant or bar. Use could potentially be interchangeable between a café during the daytime and restaurant at night. The basement has potential to be integrated into this new use subject to access / fire escape issues being addressed.</li> <li>• The space could be used to extend the current Public Library in the form of extended desk and computer space, with the potential to use part of the space as a cabsé.</li> </ul>

## The Rear (Civil Defence Building, Northgate Data Centre and Bunker)

Two buildings (Data Centre & Civil Defence Building) of two storeys of low heritage significance, with the visual appearance of the Data Centre detracting from the setting of the Town Hall.

Existing Use	Recommended Use
<p><b>Civil Defence Building &amp; Data Centre –</b> The Civil Defence Building is used to store Emergency planning equipment such as community warden’s bicycles, whilst the Data centre is occupied by computer servers on the ground floor with the second floor vacant.</p>	<p><b>Civil defence Building and Data Centre –</b> Three potential uses have been identified for the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refurbish or redevelop one or both of the buildings for residential use allowing for up to 12 flats of 1 to 3 bedrooms or 10 maisonettes of 3 to 4 bedrooms</li> <li>• Primary care provision, as there is a lack of affordable space for existing GP surgeries to expand in the Stoke Newington Area</li> <li>• Business use to meet high demand for various types of office space in the area.</li> </ul>