



KEY INFORMATION:
CLIENT: Manchester City Council
LOCATION: Chorlton, Manchester
CONSTRUCTION VALUE: £1.9m
CONTRACTOR: Equans
START DATE: April 24
SECTOR: Libraries and Cultural



SOCIAL VALUE PROMISE:

- 50 hours of volunteering
- 40 apprentice weeks
- 2 site visits
- 6 * school and college engagement events



PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Chorlton Library was first opened in 1914, having been designed by Henry Price and funded by Andrew Carnegie. Its distinctive Edwardian Baroque styling has earned it Grade II listing.

Prior to receiving listed building status, Chorlton Library had been subject to renovations in the 1970s which damaged interior stonework, particularly on the iconic domed roof, which was boarded over and a false ceiling instated. This scheme sets to undo these updates and restore the iconic library to its former glory.

This major refurbishment scheme not only involves lovingly restoring the building's stonework and replastering using traditional methods; it also includes installing modern improvements and completely overhauling the electrical and mechanical systems, with a view to improving its efficiency as part of the council's wider decarbonisation ambitions.

Once the refurbishment works are completed, an extension will be constructed to allow the library to expand its services to further meet the needs of the local community.

KEY CHALLENGES

The project poses many challenges including an asbestos-laden confined basement, lead paint and awkward shaped structures which need to be overcome using a mix of traditional and modern approaches, all whilst adhering to the strict planning conditions imposed to preserve the historic site.

"It is a much-loved library and continues to be at the heart of the Chorlton community as it has been for the last 100 years.

This work will bring it right up to date and ensure it continues to be better equipped to serve the local community and fit for purpose for the next 100 years and more as well as meeting our sustainability plans and carbon neutral targets. As one of the busiest libraries in the city, I know it will be missed but I can assure you that the revamp will be worth the wait."

JOHN HACKING, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR LEISURE
 (reported in Manchester Evening News)