

*Aspirational brief for a new central library,  
The Library of Hull*

# *Aspirational brief, produced by the James Reckitt Library Trust, for a new central library, The Library of Hull*

- To build on the ethics and principles of the public library service in Hull to develop a Library of Hull committed to knowledge, learning, creativity and imagination; a place that is safe, free and open to all, welcoming and friendly; an inspirational space where people can expand their knowledge and understanding of themselves, their lives and the world about them; a place that reaffirms the position of public libraries at the heart of the development of strong, knowledgeable communities.
- To provide the people of Hull with new opportunities to help make Hull a successful, prosperous, ambitious, healthy and knowledgeable city of which we are all proud, a true legacy of City of Culture 2017.
- To create a building that stands as a beacon for learning in the city, embodies the evolving brand of the city, reflects the aspirations of Hull, and helps establish the city as a leading visitor destination.
- To develop a flexible, adaptable and inspirational environment for study, learning, recreation and respite that meets the needs and aspirations of all users of the Library, with ready access to the latest digital technologies and to quality collections of printed and digital resources.
- To create an environment that is inviting, welcoming, and comfortable; that promotes health and well-being; that encourages people to stop and sit, to linger, to read, to work, to talk, to feel at home; an environment where people can network and interact, particularly across boundaries, and can pursue their interests together; to be THE place to go to meet friends and colleagues.
- To create a place of surprise, wonder and imagination where people of all ages can discover and develop a love of literature and reading; a space where people can engage with science, technology and digital innovation, where they can build and learn from each other, and from this city's experts in these fields; a place where our artistic community can congregate, create, exhibit and perform.
- To develop a forum, an RSA of the North, where the great challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century life can be debated, where everyone can be engaged; a place where world-class thinkers and entrepreneurs can share and discuss their ideas. A place that reinforces the strength of democracy and civic society.

- To develop a space where people can acquire the skills they need to be employable and to live life more fully; a place where the tools of entrepreneurship can be found, and where businesses, both big and small, can be supported with expertise and resources;
- To create a Library that is an international exemplar of what public libraries have to offer in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, underpinned by a fundamental commitment to open engagement with the communities that the Library seeks to serve.
- To develop this project as a practical demonstration of partnership working, bringing together a wide range of organisations across traditional divides, committed to a shared vision.
- To have a business model that is robust and sustainable, and is not reliant on uncertain short term funding.