



# Foundations for the Future

20 Years of Library Redevelopment  
in Cambridgeshire



## Foreword

“This booklet celebrates Cambridgeshire County Council’s investment since 1990 in creating a library service infrastructure which is among the best in the UK. I am delighted that Mike and his colleagues have produced ‘Foundations for the Future’ to showcase the hard work underway in Cambridgeshire to build a truly modern library service.”

**Sir Peter Brown, Cambridgeshire County Councillor and Cabinet Member for Communities**

Over the past 20 years the programme of library building and redevelopment in Cambridgeshire has sought to achieve buildings that are adaptable and can easily accommodate changes to service delivery over time. Equally, there has been an emphasis on locating libraries at the heart of communities, where they are accessible to all and highly visible, as a symbol of the County Council’s reach into all communities. With the help of our suppliers, Cambridgeshire Libraries have been successful in incorporating quality furnishings and fixtures that will last. The enduring quality of the library interiors at March and Ely, both built more than 10 years ago, bears this out.

As well as focusing on location and future proofing, Cambridgeshire Libraries have also sought to tailor each library to its particular community. There has been no standard blueprint of shapes and styles, rather buildings tailored to local community needs and designed to fit into each location. We have pursued every opportunity to enhance existing services, to introduce new ones, and to keep pace with the enhancements that new technology presents. Wherever possible we also share the use of library buildings with appropriate partners.

The investment made since 1990 totals in excess of £22 million. Whilst a significant part of this came from the authority’s capital programme, almost half of the total spend has been supported by contributions from a wide range of other sources. This investment has been carefully distributed across the county rather than directed to any single project, enabling Cambridgeshire Libraries to celebrate a total of 17 library buildings benefiting from major investment in this period.

Of course a major investment programme is wasted if it does not meet the needs of local communities and, accordingly, Cambridgeshire Libraries have focused on working with local communities to ensure their needs are met. The impact and increases in use that new and redeveloped library buildings have produced is testimony to the fact that successful community engagement has been achieved.

The last two years have seen the culmination of the current investment programme with the reopening of hub libraries at Huntingdon and Wisbech, and the thriving community library at Great Shelford. However, the most significant event since 2008 has been the eventual completion of the redeveloped Central Library, Cambridge. This was a project which, given the negotiations involved in linking into two major shopping centre developments, the complexity of the existing land and building tenures and (in the latter stages) an unfortunate experience with the original building contractor, took more than a decade from concept to completion. However, with almost 850,000 customer visits in the first year of operation, Central Library, Cambridge has rapidly regained its status as the busiest public building in Cambridgeshire, providing the county with a flagship library to be proud of, fit for the 21st Century.

The work is still ongoing, and next year we will open another brand new library, in Ramsey. This will encapsulate all the features of the approach to library development we have refined over the past 20 years: a highly visible and central new location, co-location with a partner organisation (in this case the District Council), a highly advantageous deal with a local developer, the incorporation

of community learning and meeting facilities, a sustainable building and new technology, extensive community engagement and participation and, of course, our trademark quality design and interior.

Many individuals and companies have played a part in our library building and redevelopment programme. Some in just one project, others – such as our colleagues in Corporate Property, and companies such as SirsiDynix and Demco Interiors – in most, if not all, parts of the programme. Internally, the Library Service Development Team, Training Unit and ICT Team, along with a number of senior staff, have all played significant roles, as has the local staff in every location. Particular recognition must go to the following people:

- Chris Heaton – senior manager responsible for planning, finance and negotiation
- Leonore Charlton – library layout and interior design consultant and for many years the manager of the Library Development team
- Lesley Noblett – former Head of Service
- Steve Alderton – Head of Property Commissioning, Cambridgeshire County Council

As Head of Service then Service Director during this period I am pleased to have been able to bring our investment programme to fruition. My grateful thanks to all those who have played their part in enabling the people of Cambridgeshire to have access to what I believe is rapidly becoming the best library infrastructure in the country.

### **Mike Hosking**

Service Director, Libraries, Learning and Culture, Cambridgeshire County Council



*Mike Hosking  
(Service Director –  
Libraries, Learning and  
Culture Directorate)*



*Chris Heaton  
(Head of Policy,  
Planning and Culture –  
Libraries, Learning and  
Culture Directorate)*



*Leonore Charlton  
(Library Design  
Consultant)*



*Lesley Noblett  
(Former Head  
of Service)*

## Challenges driving change



*New location - a drawing for the new library built at Burwell*

In 1990 Cambridgeshire Libraries embarked on a major programme of library building redevelopment in response to a range of challenges facing the service including:

- wider social and cultural change
- the need to develop and modernise the service within limited resources
- rapid developments in Information and Communication Technologies
- actual and anticipated demographic and housing growth in Cambridgeshire

The innovative methods used by the service to meet these challenges over the past 20 years have particular relevance today as Cambridgeshire Libraries face unprecedented levels of cutbacks due to the current national budget deficit. The vision for the future of libraries in Cambridgeshire is to build on this legacy of innovation in order to maintain and enhance libraries which are:

- welcoming, attractive and well designed
- modern and flexible to adapt to changing needs
- cost effective and easy to maintain
- built at minimal cost to the County Council
- co-located with suitable partner agencies where possible
- able to act as multi-agency community hubs

- located in the heart of the community
- accessible to the whole community

The pace of development in Cambridgeshire has been rapid, with 17 new or significantly redeveloped libraries completed in 20 years, resulting in one of the best portfolios of library buildings in the country and providing an important basis for the delivery of quality library services. The provision in Cambridgeshire of a new generation of well designed libraries has proved a catalyst for change in local communities, supporting social cohesion and demonstrating the strength of a library as the heart of any community.



*Change of use - the Town Council offices converted into a larger library in Littleport*

# Themes for change across Cambridgeshire's libraries

## Making creative use of funding opportunities

Cambridgeshire Libraries have a successful track record in identifying and attracting funds from a wide range of external bodies, helping to finance an ambitious programme of library redevelopment projects. These funding sources include:

- European Union
- Lottery Funds
- East of England Development Agency (EEDA)
- Greater Cambridge Partnership
- District and Parish Councils
- Developer funding and Section 106 contributions
- Local and national charities
- Millennium Commission
- Housing Associations
- Charitable grants
- NHS

The vast majority of Cambridgeshire's library redevelopment projects, therefore, have been jointly funded by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and other agencies.

A variety of negotiations and funding opportunities have been imaginatively employed and combined across the range of projects in order to achieve best value for money for the communities of Cambridgeshire. These have resulted in a varied pattern of resourcing packages, including schemes:

- wholly funded through the County Council capital programme – as at Soham
- wholly funded by developer contributions (using s106 of the Town and Country Planning Act) – as at Cambourne Library and Health Centre where the contribution was linked with the building of a whole new village
- funded by a combination of the County Council's capital funding and s106 funds – as at Burwell. In this case the s106 contribution was aggregated from a number of housing schemes within the village

- using a combination of County Council capital funding and European Union regional regeneration funding (with a particular focus on learning and skills development) – as at March Library and Learning Centre
- involving sale of County Council owned library sites to secure new library provision. At Cottenham capital receipts from the land sale for housing provided the funding for the Council to build a new library on part of the site. At Great Shelford the library occupied an ideal location on the village high street but was housed in a building unfit for purpose and in poor physical condition. The site was sold to a housing association to develop key worker flats above and to the rear of the new library which they built and now lease back to the Council at a peppercorn rent for 125 years
- securing developer provision of new libraries as part of wider schemes within major town centre development schemes – as was the case in two of the County's main market towns, Ely and Huntingdon. In both cases this involved surrendering existing freehold buildings in return for holding the new facilities on long leases at a peppercorn rent
- negotiating with developers to achieve good value deals on the remodelling of existing buildings. This was the situation at the Central Library, Cambridge where space was given up for shop units as part of a redevelopment of an existing shopping centre and the creation of a new one. The deal involved a major remodelling of the library, enabling better use of space, a better internal operational layout and a more attractive environment for customers.

## Partnership

All new libraries in Cambridgeshire include space for complementary services. Libraries are visited by people of all ages and abilities, making them ideal venues in which to offer a wide range of partner services. Partnership working encourages the development of joint initiatives, particularly in the areas of teaching and learning, careers advice, information, training and support.

Cambridgeshire Libraries accommodate the following range of partner services:

- IT based adult Learning Centres
- Archives and Local Studies
- Next Step adult guidance
- Connexions youth guidance
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Post Office
- GP surgery
- Parking Services

The advantages of partnership working within libraries include:

- integrating, enhancing and maximising services
- shared building use costs
- enhanced opening hours
- access to additional funding sources
- encouraging joined-up working
- wider range of needs supported
- incorporating learning and training into libraries
- library development in consultation with partners

Partnership in redeveloped libraries has been clearly demonstrated in Cambridgeshire at March Library and Learning Centre (page 20), Ely Library (page 16) and Bar Hill Library (page 11).

*Award winning - the rebuilt Library and Learning Centre in March*



## Location and co-location

A prominent, visible and central location for a library is important to encourage the greatest use. Every attempt is made in Cambridgeshire to ensure that new libraries are built at the heart of their communities. Some of Cambridgeshire's new libraries have been rebuilt on their original site, continuing to take advantage of a good position, whilst others have been relocated to more suitable positions – raising their profiles and increasing use.

The new library in Huntingdon highlights the benefit of maximising the use of an existing good position, whilst Burwell Library demonstrates the benefit of moving a new building to a new location.

The co-location of a library alongside other major service providers in a shared building brings advantages for all the services and users involved. The key to the success of co-location is a seamless

design, offering shared entrances and integrated facilities, allowing customers and visitors to move between the services without unnecessary barriers.

The advantages of co-location include:

- maximum use made of one building
- funding focused on one building
- building maintenance costs shared
- additional customer footfall for shared services

The new Library and Health Centre at Cambourne (page 13) and the rebuilt library in Linton (page 19) illustrate the advantages of co-location for a library service.

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### *Shared use – the newly built Library and Health Centre in Cambourne*



## Access and accessibility

The ambience and layout of a library is instrumental in maximising its use, and enabling access for customers of all ages and abilities is a prime concern for Cambridgeshire's library designers. Careful design ensures that all areas of a library are accessible for customers in wheelchairs and are negotiable by mothers with pushchairs, users of motorised buggies and people with poor mobility.

Cambridgeshire's libraries are designed with easy access for customers in mind and are compliant with all aspects of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). An extensive programme of DDA building adaptations was undertaken for all Cambridgeshire Libraries in 2003/04. Notable examples include Warboys Library, where the porch was removed to provide level access to the library; and at Littleport Library where the pavement was ramped up from either side of the door to provide access for wheelchair users.

Features ensuring accessibility include:

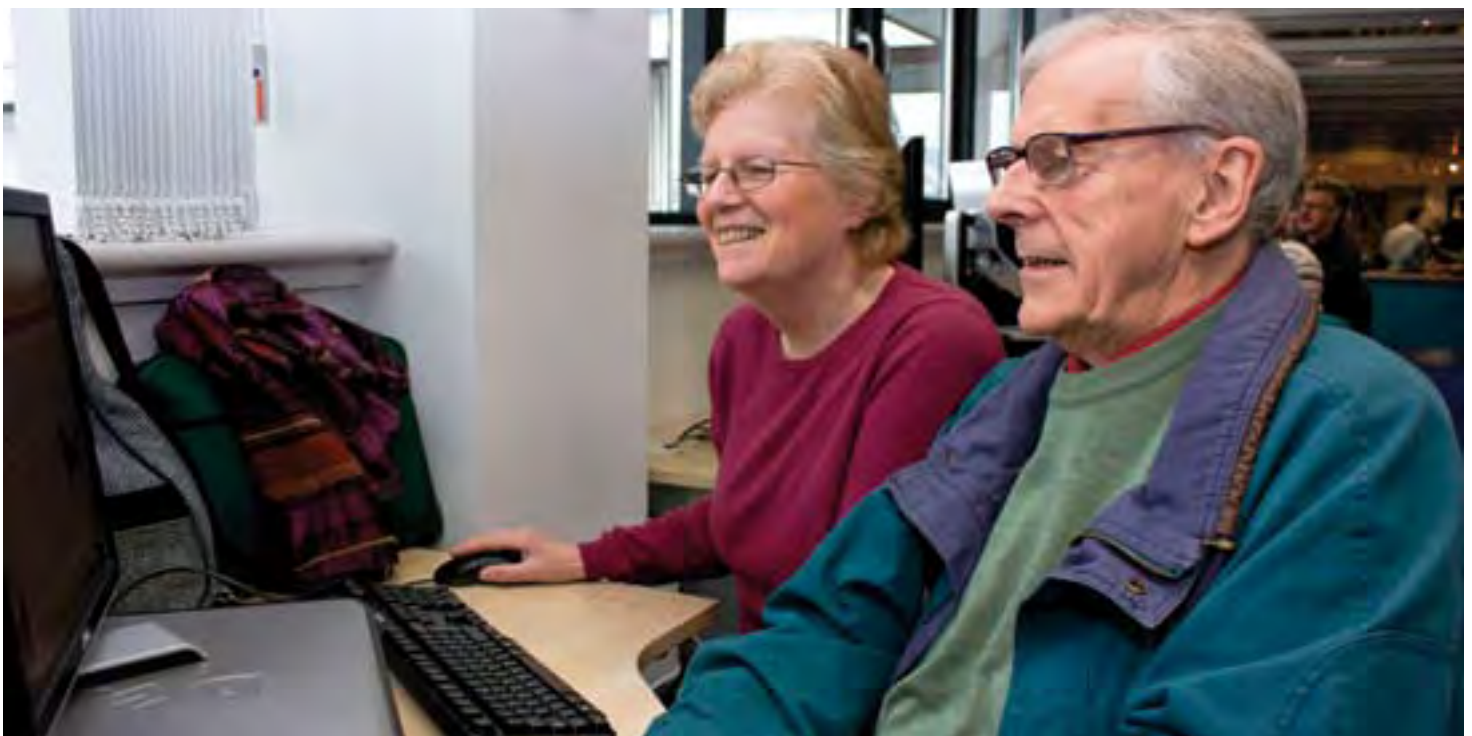
- a range of furniture and equipment suitable for all users
- accessible IT software
- adjustable height benches
- automatic entrance doors
- lower sections to counters
- accessible toilets and ramps
- clear signage and guiding

Central Library, Cambridge (page 14/15) provides a range of training opportunities, specialist equipment and software to help customers with accessibility needs.

An important example of our drive to make library services as accessible as possible can be seen in the example from Papworth Library (page 21).

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*Enabling access for all ages – customers enjoying the IT facilities at Central Library, Cambridge*



## Learning Centres

At the end of the 1990's Cambridgeshire Libraries recognised the importance of incorporating learning facilities within libraries, reaching learners lacking access to IT and preferring a more informal and flexible learning environment.

Following the success of the initial Library Learning Centres at Cambridge, Littleport and Ely in 2000, Learning Centres were integrated into the layout of other larger libraries, often located alongside partner services such as Connexions and Next Step.

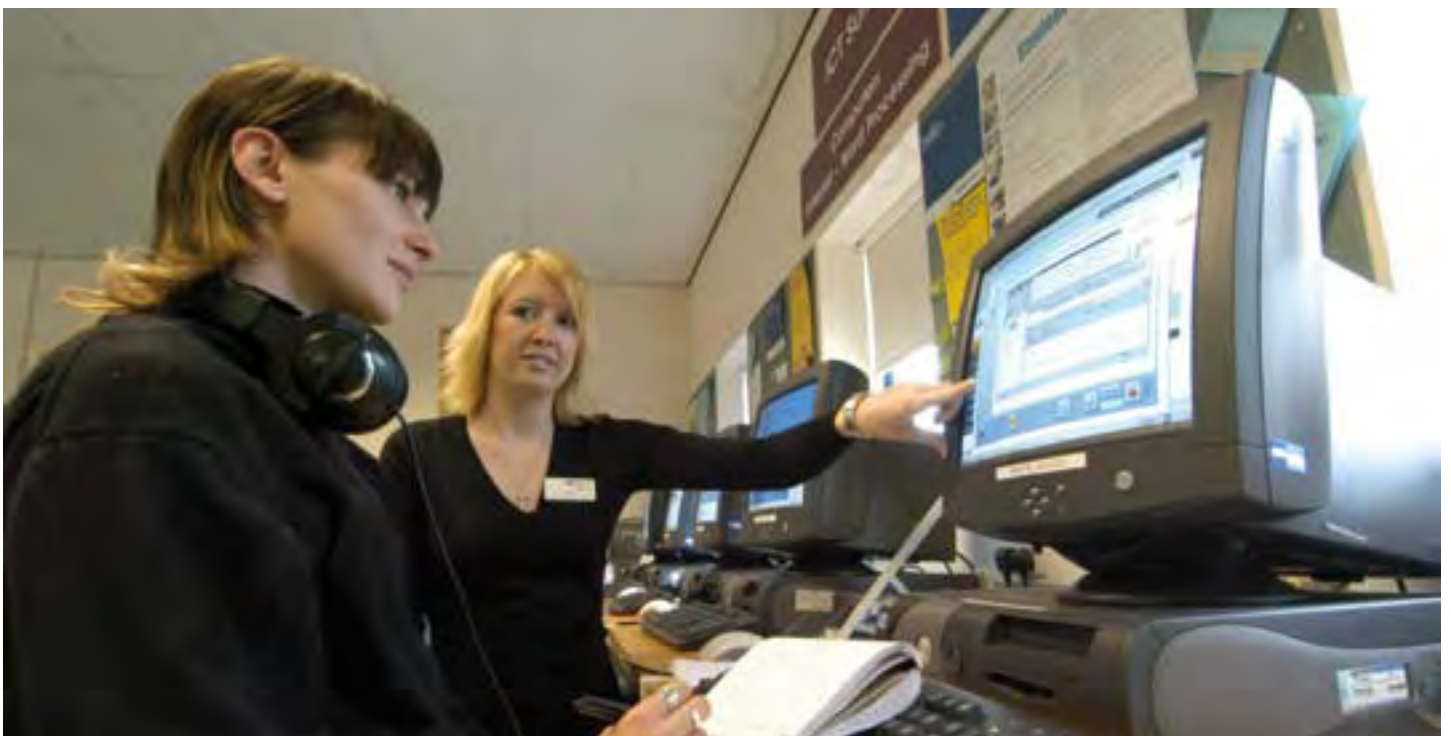
Learning Centres deliver training to learners over 19, covering learning from 'first steps' through to qualifications including ECDL and NVQs at Levels 2 and 3. The Learning Centres team is an externally funded element of the library service, and since 2000 have delivered over 27,000 courses across the county.

There are currently seven full-time Learning Centres in Cambridgeshire libraries (Central Library, Cambridge, Ely, March, St Ives, Huntingdon, Whittlesey, Wisbech), with a further two planned for St Neots and Ramsey. Three part-time centres operate in Chatteris, Arbury Court, Cambridge and Littleport.

Examples from Ely (page 16), Littleport (page 19) and St Ives (page 22) highlight the success of Library Learning Centres as a valuable additional service offered through libraries in Cambridgeshire.

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### *Learning communities – the Learning Centre at Ely Library*



## Community provision and engagement

In Cambridgeshire, paramount importance has always been given to the provision of libraries fulfilling the needs and aspirations of the county's rapidly developing communities. As funding opportunities have become available new technology has been incorporated into the county's libraries, providing the widest range of services and facilities designed to meet the needs of local communities.

These facilities include:

- self-service and return facilities using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology
- meeting rooms with catering facilities
- customer toilets
- wi-fi connectivity

Community engagement is a current focus of the building and redevelopment programme across libraries in Cambridgeshire. Library buildings and

their services are designed to create a sense of community and to meet the community needs of the local population, whether it be children and young people, minority communities or special interest groups. Consultation with as many people and groups as possible during the redevelopment of Cambridgeshire's libraries has afforded local communities the opportunity to contribute to decisions on the range of services and facilities provided in new and redeveloped library buildings.

In addition, careful design and appropriate management of the buildings once in operation allows community groups to maintain continued input to the running of the service.

Community engagement has been a key focus in the redevelopment of the libraries in Wisbech (page 23) and Chatteris (page 12).

*Serving community needs - the self-service facilities at the rebuilt library in Huntingdon*



# Transforming Cambridgeshire's libraries

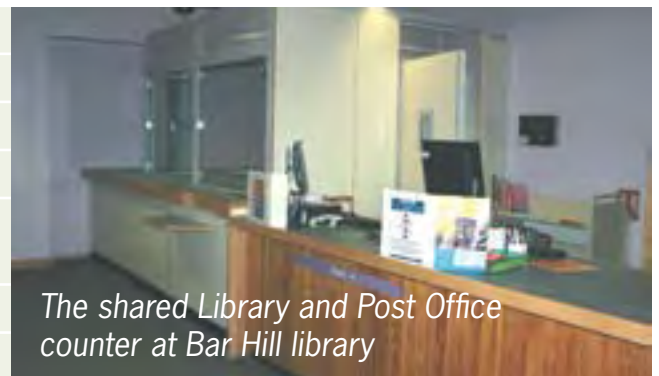
## Bar Hill Library

### Post Office co-located within library

Bar Hill Parish Council approached the Library Service in 2006 hoping to co-locate the village Post Office within the library, following its threatened closure in an existing location. Operating from the Library since 2006, the Post Office has now become a very successful addition to the library's community offer.

"The Post Office has been open in the library for four years now and it has been successful. We are definitely busier on the days that the library is open so it is good the library customers are using us so well on those days" **Harry, Post Master at Bar Hill**

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2006
<b>Size in square metres</b>	255
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	4,000
<b>Cost</b>	£22,461
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, Post Office, Parish Council
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Princebuild
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors



## Buckden Library

### library co-located with a community hall

The expanded and redeveloped library in Buckden opened in May 1999, following the creation of the Millennium Community Hall with a grant of around £320,000 from the Millenium Commission. Buckden Library rents space in the community hall, providing another example of successful co-location. Buckden's previous library was housed

in an outdated 3 bay Elliott building and the new building has provided the village with a well-used shared community resource. Cambridgeshire County Council demonstrated its commitment to partnership working in Buckden by contributing £80,000 to cover the fit-out costs of the new library, generated by the sale of the land occupied by the old library.

<b>Date re-opened</b>	1999
<b>Size in square metres</b>	132
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	2,680
<b>Cost</b>	£400,000 (External funding £320,000 – Millenium Commission grant)
<b>Funding sources</b>	Millenium Commission, CCC
<b>Architect</b>	Headley Stokes Associates
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Peter's Kitshop



## Burwell Library

### rebuilt in a new location

The new Burwell Library replaced a dilapidated 1947 HORSA hut on the edge of a village college site in 2006. Rebuilding the library in a more central and visible position adjacent to the primary school has led to a dramatic increase in usage and the children's library is now well used by the primary school for out of hours sessions.

"Visiting the library gives the children the opportunity to access a wider variety of books and resources and realise how much there is for them to borrow. It generates excitement about books and new releases and leaves the children with a positive attitude towards reading and using the library in the future." **Kirsty Leach, Literacy Co-ordinator, Burwell Primary School**

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2006
<b>Size in square metres</b>	187
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	6,150
<b>Cost</b>	£395,000 (External funding £104,000 – s106 contribution)
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, S106 contribution
<b>Architect</b>	CCC
<b>Main Contractor</b>	SS Ambrose
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, G4 Tech, Rickwood Display



*The rebuilt Burwell Library just after completion*

## Chatteris Library

### community room added to redeveloped library

The new library at Chatteris replaced a Portakabin-type building with temporary planning permission in 1992. The building housing the redeveloped library was built by Fenland District Council to contain council offices, the library and flats above. The building was formally purchased by CCC in 2007 and a community

room (including an IT suite and catering facilities) was installed in the former office space. The new room, named the Vermuyden Room by the local community, has become a focal point for community activity. The room is in constant use and is available outside library opening hours, greatly adding to its appeal.

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2008
<b>Size in square metres</b>	297
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	9,770
<b>Cost</b>	£125,000 (External funding £95,000 - liC programme)
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, EEDA
<b>Architect</b>	Mouchel
<b>Main Contractor</b>	C J Murfitt
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Milliken Carpets



*Opening the Vermuyden Room extension at Chatteris Library*

## Cambourne Library library in newly built shared services building

Cambourne is a newly developed town to the West of Cambridge. The new library here is co-located with a GP practice, Primary Care Trust services and the County Council's Trading Standards team in an award winning building designed to promote the use of shared areas effectively.

Sackville House opened in 2004 and soon became very popular with the residents of the rapidly growing new town, particularly mothers with young children. Health Service clinics and children's activities in the library are carefully scheduled for ease of use by families.

Cambourne is still a growing town, and space has been set aside in Sackville House to allow the library to expand in step with the growth of the town. Space ready to be used by an expanded library is currently used as a network touchdown centre by Cambridgeshire County Council staff.



*Sackville House – newly built home of Cambourne Library and Health Centre*

*"It really works well having the library and the surgery in one building. I see on a day-to-day basis how books facilitate parenting. The library is very well used, as are the library books in the Medical Centre."*

**Dr Peter Bailey, Monkfield Medical Practice, Cambourne**

<b>Date opened</b>	2004
<b>Size in square metres</b>	220
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	6,030
<b>Cost</b>	£3.3 million (External funding for library provision £850,000 – s106 contribution)
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, Developers
<b>Architect</b>	West Hart Partnership
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Jackson Construction
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Concept Designs, Peter's Kitshop

## Central Library, Cambridge redeveloped flagship library

Negotiations with the developer of the new Grand Arcade shopping centre in central Cambridge enabled Cambridgeshire Libraries to completely rebuild the flagship Central Library, Cambridge in 2009. As a result, Cambridge now has a state of the art modern library in a prime location within the city's foremost shopping centre. The cost to the County Council was minimised by exchanging part of the previous 1970s library for retail units, whilst the creation inside of a completely new layout, incorporating escalators instead of the old stairs, allowed more effective use of the floor space.

This development included the installation of new heating, cooling and lighting to all three floors. The interior is designed to reflect nearby department stores with colours and signage co-ordinated for each floor, helping customers locate themselves and find the services they require.

The new library includes self-service issue and return facilities, a Quick Pick area near the entrance with attractive book displays, conference facilities and a busy café service. Comfortable seating areas have been created for relaxing and reading whilst in other areas quiet study spaces with wi-fi facilities are available.

A major addition to the facilities at Central Library, Cambridge is the British Film Institute's *Mediatheque*, providing free access to a wide range of digitised archival film and TV footage in a purpose built area on the 3rd floor.



*Central Library, Cambridge,  
from the Lion Yard shopping centre*



The entrance to Central Library, Cambridge in the Grand Arcade shopping centre



The busy Café @ Central Library, Cambridge

“For over three months I have spent several hours a day here. I have found so much here to fill not only my mind but also my heart.”

**Father from Pakistan visiting his son living in Cambridge.**

“This library combines the best aspects of the old and the new - the best of new technology, but still holding on to traditional values. A perfect blend.”

**Central Library, Cambridge customer.**



The BFI Mediatheque at Central Library, Cambridge

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2009
<b>Size in square metres</b>	3,796
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	595,500 (total county population)
<b>Cost</b>	£7.5 million (External funding £2.55 million – developer and landlord contributions)
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, Developers
<b>Architect</b>	Chapman Taylor
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Coulson Building Group
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Milliken Carpets, 3M, G4 Tech, Rickwood Display, Signs Express, Pickfords

## Cottenham Library

### rebuilt under agreement with developer

Cottenham's new library opened in 1994, replacing a large wooden building located on the site of an old school. To create the new library Cambridgeshire County Council negotiated an agreement whereby land it owned further along the street was sold to a developer who then built a number of houses and the new library.

The rebuilt library in Cottenham provides customer parking, automatic doors, a number of accessibility features and an interior designed to be flexible to accommodate community events. It also features an attractive garden maintained by the village Gardening Club.

<b>Date re-opened</b>	1994
<b>Size in square metres</b>	141
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	6,100
<b>Cost</b>	£200,000
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC
<b>Architect</b>	NJ Twitchett
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Feature Homes Ltd
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Reska



*Cottenham's new library and community garden*

## Ely Library

### library redeveloped to include a Learning Centre

A key element in the redevelopment of Cambridgeshire's libraries over the past 10 years has been the innovative Library Learning Services team (details on page 9). Library Learning Services have pioneered the development of externally funded Learning Centres in libraries, launching a centre in the redeveloped Ely Library when it opened in 2000. Ely Library Learning Centre

became the blueprint for successful centres in other market towns across the county.

*"Opening a Learning Centre in Ely library was key to establishing the provision of flexible, accessible learning in libraries across the county and enabled us to reach learners in market towns"*

**Rebecca Morgan, Library Learning Services.**

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2000
<b>Size in square metres</b>	1,189
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	18,480
<b>Cost</b>	£1.3 million (External funding £650,000 – developer contribution)
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, ECDC, Simons Estates
<b>Architect</b>	Simons Design
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Simons Construction Limited
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Rickwood Display



*The entrance area to the rebuilt library at Ely*



*The old library in Great Shelford*

## Great Shelford Library

library rebuilt alongside key worker flats



*The rebuilt library in Great Shelford with key worker flats above*

A community library in the village of Great Shelford, 4.5 miles from Cambridge, was rebuilt in partnership with Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) in 2009. The former library occupied an ideal location on the village high street but was housed in a building unfit for purpose and in poor physical condition. The site area owned by the County Council was larger than needed for a library to serve this catchment area. An agreement was

therefore negotiated with BPHA to sell the site for the development of key worker flats above and to the rear of a new library.

The façade of the new building is sympathetic to the local street scene and the larger, attractive interior is very popular with the local community, particularly its children – Great Shelford contains one of the library service’s best performing children’s libraries.

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2009
<b>Size in square metres</b>	224
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	3,960
<b>Cost</b>	£850,000 (External funding £730,000 – BPHA Housing Association)
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
<b>Architect</b>	Design Partnership Ely
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Hill Partnership
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, 3M, Peter’s Kitshop, Signs Express

## Huntingdon Library and Archives library rebuilt in existing location

The new Huntingdon Library and Archives was built in 2009, replacing the previous building in its original central location. A spacious and energy efficient new building replaces an awkwardly shaped circular building which had become outgrown and was no longer suitable for delivering a modern library service.

The new building is attractive, light and airy, incorporating a Learning Centre, a café and a well-used range of meeting rooms. The rebuilt library shares the building with the

Huntingdonshire Archives service and the purpose built environmentally controlled store managed by the Archives service contains almost one million archive documents. Relocating this popular service to the library from its previous smaller site has attracted many more visitors due to the high visibility offered by the library.

*"I came in for 10 minutes and stayed 5 hours"*  
**Andrea White, Huntingdonshire Archives service user, Ramsey.**



<b>Date re-opened</b>	2009
<b>Size in square metres</b>	1,747
<b>Population served</b> (2008 figures)	20,610
<b>Cost</b>	£4.6 million (External funding £2.16 million – developer contribution)
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, Developers
<b>Architect</b>	CPMG
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Cleggs
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Milliken Carpets, 3M, G4Tech, Signs Express, Rickwood Display, Pickfords

## Linton Library

### library rebuilt in new location

Located in a community centre building managed by a trust for the village, the rebuilt Linton Library, opened in 1999, replaced a totally outgrown room in the village college. Other services sharing the building include a playgroup, after-school club and an IT group for senior citizens. The building is

used by village clubs and societies for evening and weekend activities (the building acts as a church on Sundays) and the rooms may be hired for private events. Planning for an extension to accommodate a Children's Centre is currently under way.

<b>Date re-opened</b>	1999
<b>Size in square metres</b>	147
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	4,410
<b>Cost</b>	£61,392
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, CCC Partnership Fund
<b>Architect</b>	CCC
<b>Main Contractor</b>	HC Moss (Builders) Ltd
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors



*The rebuilt library at Linton*

## Littleport Library

### conversion of an existing building into a library

Littleport Library is based in the Town Hall and originally shared space with the Town Council offices. The Victorian (1879) building was in urgent need of redevelopment, particularly as there was no disabled access. In 2002 the Town Council moved offices, allowing the library to be extended internally and redeveloped. This work included opening up the

internal space and the installation of a new floor and ceiling, new furniture, an improved area for children, a toilet, staff facilities, a computer suite and a new ramped entrance with automatic doors. Littleport Library housed the first Learning Centre in a smaller community library, and remains a popular part-time venue for informal learning.

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2002
<b>Size in square metres</b>	149
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	8,130
<b>Cost</b>	£120,000
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, Townland Charity, Parish Council
<b>Architect</b>	CCC
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Bernard Ward Ltd
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors



*New ramped access to the library in Littleport*

## March Library and Learning Centre award winning rebuilt library

Funding support from partners helped provide the Fenland town of March with a nationally recognised building of outstanding exterior and interior design in 2000. March Library and Learning Centre has featured widely in the architectural press and won the Civic Trust Award for Market Towns in 2003.

The unusually elongated shape of the library in March has been used to create separate teaching, study and learning spaces in a quieter area away from the busy borrowing areas, children’s library and meeting room. March Library and Learning Centre was a very cost effective building to complete and incorporates environmentally friendly features in an innovative design.

March Library and Learning Centre is one of the first libraries in Cambridgeshire to include spaces specifically designed for the use of partners. Current partners include the Citizen’s Advice Bureau, the Fenland Family History Society and Connexions.



*The striking design at the rebuilt March Library and Learning Centre*

“Since we moved to March Library, our clients have found it easier to access our services, both in terms of face-to-face advice and through our new Advicehub kiosk. Partnership working with the library has enabled us to help more clients to resolve their problems.”

**Linda Hutchinson, Bureau Manager, Fenland CAB**

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2000
<b>Size in square metres</b>	1,000
<b>Population served</b> (2008 figures)	21,560
<b>Cost</b>	£1.4 million (External funding £525,000 – ESF regeneration funding)
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC, Fenland District Council, Isle College, EU
<b>Architect</b>	Bernard Stilwell Associates
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Mowlem
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, 3M, Rickwood Display, Peter’s Kitshop

## Papworth Library award winning newly built accessible library



*Accessible to all – Papworth Library*

Papworth Library is located in a shared building, built by the Varrier Jones Foundation in 2000 to accommodate services for its disabled clients in the village of Papworth. Designed for people with disabilities to both use and work in, Papworth Library won the Adapt Award for Accessibility in 2003. Many Papworth Trust clients living and working in the Papworth community took part in the original library

training programme. Several of these participants have now moved on to work in other libraries across the county. The library design at Papworth includes:

- shutters rather than doors, allowing easier access
- a sitting height counter for staff with disabilities
- wide aisles and low book shelves maximising access for those in wheelchairs

<b>Date opened</b>	2000
<b>Size in square metres</b>	210
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	2,690
<b>Cost</b>	£408,000 (External funding £208,000 – Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, £200,000 – s106 contribution)
<b>Funding sources</b>	Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, s106 contribution
<b>Architect</b>	Frank Shaw Associates
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Llewelyn Construction
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Signs Express, Animania

## Soham Library redeveloped school building

Soham Library opened in 1994, following the complete internal redevelopment of this Grade 2 listed former school building. The new library replaced an unsuitable previous library building of only 47 square metres. The single storey building housing Soham Library provides a large open plan public space, incorporating a large and well-used

meeting room with kitchen facilities. Parking and a range of accessible features are also available. Cambridgeshire Libraries is currently negotiating with the local museum regarding the possible use of a storage and distribution area at the rear of the library as a location for events and exhibitions.

<b>Date re-opened</b>	1995
<b>Size in square metres</b>	343
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	9,710
<b>Cost</b>	£295,000
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC
<b>Architect</b>	Thomson Design
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Construction Management Services
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Plescon



*Converted school – Soham Library*

## St Ives Library

### redeveloped library extended to provide a Learning Centre

The new library in St Ives opened in 1992, conveniently located next door to a popular supermarket and adjacent to a large central car-park. The redeveloped library replaced a small, inadequate building on the edge of the town centre and now provides space for a wide range of services, including a large children's library, study spaces, a quiet reading area and a reference and local studies area.

In 2002 a Learning Centre was added to St Ives Library by extending into a former staff workroom to form a dedicated learning area. St Ives Library Learning Centre has proved to be highly successful and a key to its success is the counter area shared by tutors and library staff, who are able to support each other and refer customers to each other's services.



*The thriving Learning Centre at St Ives Library*

<b>Date re-opened</b>	1992
<b>Size in square metres</b>	615
<b>Population served (2008 figures)</b>	16,070
<b>Cost</b>	£1.2 million
<b>Funding sources</b>	CCC
<b>Architect</b>	CMC Architects
<b>Main Contractor</b>	John Lelliott Construction
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, 3M, Milliken Carpets

## Wisbech Library and Learning Centre redeveloped community library

Wisbech Library and Learning Centre received just under £2 million from the Big Lottery Fund’s Community Libraries programme in 2008. This represented the largest award in the East of England. The rebuilt and extended library opened in 2010.

A Community Management Board was established to ensure that local people could play an active role in the management of the new library. A wide ranging programme of community engagement and consultation took place in the lead-up to the rebuilding of the outgrown library.

The rebuilt and extended library in Wisbech now provides:

- meeting rooms with catering facilities
- a public refreshment area
- a dedicated and full-time Learning Centre
- self-service and return facilities
- free wi-fi connectivity
- a stunning steel public art installation by a local artist, based on local orchards and the Fenland landscape



*The wi-fi access and refreshment area at the redeveloped Wisbech Library and Learning Centre*

“I genuinely do believe in the role of community engagement in developing the wonderful new library service for Wisbech. This has been, and will continue to be, particularly important here in Wisbech where so many people are excluded from achieving their potential by lack of opportunities and aspirations. Anything we can do to make the library service more inclusive can only benefit the whole community.”

**Erbie Murat, Member of the Community Management Board for Wisbech Library and Learning Centre.**

<b>Date re-opened</b>	2010
<b>Size in square metres</b>	938
<b>Population served</b> (2008 figures)	22,120
<b>Cost</b>	£2.68 million (External funding £2.1 million – BLF £2 million, liC £100,000)
<b>Funding sources</b>	Big Lottery Community Libraries fund, CCC, EEDA
<b>Architect</b>	Mouchel
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Kier Eastern
<b>Suppliers</b>	DEMCO Interiors, Milliken Carpets, 3M, G4Tech, Norseman

## Public Art in Cambridgeshire Libraries

Pictured are several examples of public art in Cambridgeshire's library buildings. For the most recent work, artist Jo Chapman researched, designed and produced the public art in the redeveloped Wisbech Library, informed by local residents and constructed by local craftspeople (see opposite page).

*Dichroic glass hanging above the atrium at Cambourne Library and Health Centre by Chris Wood*



*Stained glass work above the Children's Library in March by David Lewis*

*right: Stainless steel wall panels at Wisbech Library by Jo Chapman, reflecting the fruit cultivation history of Wisbech*

“Publicly accessible art, craft and design is a great way to celebrate cultural diversity and local identity. It can enhance the unique characteristics of a locality and involve local people in artist selection, the design process and the installation. Public art provides a lasting mark of community and heritage for residents and visitors to enjoy.”

**Joanne Gray, Arts Development Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council**



Cambridge Market quilt (by the Gadabouts quilting group) now on display in Central Library, Cambridge

Owl sculpture by Tony Hillier in the courtyard garden at Arbury Court Library, Cambridge



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*Pictured are examples of Demco Interiors work at Cambourne Library and Health Centre and at Burwell Library (bottom centre)*



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bottom – Great Shelford Library  
Back cover: top – March Library and Learning Centre  
bottom – Cambourne Library and Health Centre