

COMMUNITY HUB, ARCHIVE, LIBRARY, SWANSEA



LOCATION: SWANSEA
CLIENT: CYNGOR ABERTAWA SWANSEA COUNCIL
COMPLETION: 2023
VALUE: £12 MILLION
SIZE: 7000M2
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN
SECTOR: ARTS & CULTURE
CONTRACTOR: KIER
STRUCTURES: JUBB
SERVICES: SDS
PROJECT MANAGER/COST CONSULTANT: COREUS

Austin-Smith:Lord has been appointed as Architect for the transformation of two vacant department stores in the heart of Swansea.

With the current decline of high streets across the country, the project will be an exemplar for the sustainable and creative re-use of large department stores, creating a community hub that will be a destination, increasing footfall and activity throughout the city centre.

Involving the relocation of Swansea Central Library, West Glamorgan and Neath Port Talbot Archives, South Wales Miners Library, along with other council and third party services to a central, easily accessible location, creating a hub which will greatly increase inter-connectivity and collaboration between organisations, members of staff, and the Swansea public as a whole.

Extensive and detailed consultation with numerous stakeholders have taken place, entailing the careful coordination of often competing requirements in the development of the scheme.

Planning Approval was successfully granted early 2022. The project is set to complete in 2023.



277-278 Oxford Street/29-31 Princess Way was part of the post-war rebuilding of Swansea city centre and the building was acquired by British Home Stores Ltd in the mid-1950's, with the company trading from the building until 2016. Swansea City Council acquired the freehold in spring 2021 and intends to transform the building into a vibrant City Centre destination.

This building will enable the community access to a multitude of Council and Third-party services easily and flexibly. The community hub will be accessible to all and offer a range of services in a welcoming, non-institutional environment where people can meet and participate in social activities, learning and support groups.

The building will contain a public front facing flexible space that incorporates the following services but is not limited to:

- Library provision – adhering to Welsh public library standards and best practice outlined in the quality framework for libraries
- Family history, Local Studies centre and Archive, including research search room – adhering to BS EN 16893:2018
- Employability Hub
- Life-long learning and Learning Centre
- Community space
- Conference area
- Swansea Miners Library