Introduction

Following the damaging fire in March 2013 Council developed a vision for the future of the Walworth Town Hall in response to community views. There is huge community support for the project due to the key role that the town hall has played in local civic life for many years. The future new facility is to include:

- An enhanced library space
- A space to display the Cumming collection and Southwark Museum
- A flexible space for a variety of purposes including community and civic events, exhibitions and performances
- Facilities for marriage, civil partnership and citizenship ceremonies undertaken by the Southwark registrar’s service

Ultimately Southwark wants the WTH to be a civic building at the heart of the community, an exciting public place that is open and accessible to all and loved by those who use it. We want to encourage new and better ways of interaction between the community and council whilst offering local groups flexible space and support to grow and prosper. We want to bring people together so everyone feels they have a stake in the area and a role to play in building their community. It is important that people take pride in the town hall and continue to be proud of Walworth, both its history and future.

Since the fire a concerted effort has gone into assessing the damage, stabilising the building and securing and protecting the historical fabric. Under the guidance of English Heritage, limited stripping out has removed late-20th century materials, which are of no historic interest and were particularly liable to absorb and hold water. Works are currently underway to re-create the roof wing in the historically significant old vestry hall and make the building water-tight and secure prior to the new designs being implemented.

Programme to date

- Nov 2013 Consultation and support regarding the vision
- March 2014 Cabinet approval of the project vision and mandate
- Dec Mini design competition to select architects
- March 2015 Appointment of design team
- April on going Investigations to understand the building structure
- Understanding the council service requirements
- Mid July West wing reinstatement works
- May Wk 26 Community consultation design brief

Future programme

- June 2015 Sign off of design brief for Walworth Town Hall
- Aug Community consultation concept design
- Oct Community consultation developed design
- Jun 2016 Planning permission submitted
- Summer 2017 Construction and fit out works on site
- Spring 2019 Opening
2 The Existing Building

This diagram illustrates how the central interventions and new lift core enable connectivity, accessibility and allow the key components of the ensemble to be viewed from the heart space.

View towards New Entrance from Walworth Square

Selection of images showing condition of building post-fire

Heritage Approach

Walworth Town Hall and Heritage Library are made of a number of buildings constructed in different periods and phases and with varying degrees of appalling which cannot be seen in various states of decay. However, many additions, alterations and alterations over the years have reduced the legibility and meaning of these core elements. We therefore first changes will need to be made to provide a degree of clarity in the new library.

Our proposal aims to provide a clear and approach including minimal elements of new low quality (where significant is not involved) and intervention participation and new building elements provide legibility and order to the不清楚的 aspects of the buildings.

WALWORTH TOWN HALL
Celebrating our past, creating our future
6 Entrance/Arrival/Orientation

View of Heart Space looking towards Museum and Library

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7 Internal views

- Entering the building
- The Cafe
- Staircase between Library and Museum spaces

WALWORTH TOWN HALL
Celebrating our past, creating our future
The Heart Space looking towards the Cafe at ground and Registrar at first floor
9 The Heart Space

- Open oak trusses introduced to main ceremonial room
- Window cills lowered to allow views down to square
- Heart Space
- Break out study space
- Main Entrance
- Section Through Entrance, heartspace and link
- Storerooms
- WCs, baby change and lockers
- New lift provides level access to all parts of museum and library
- Existing Staircase retained
10 Library

Diagram showing Library spaces

View of young adults' library area with IT

Precedent images

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The museum will integrate innovative displays and an interactive experience with new and old spaces throughout the building.

The existing spaces will be restored and enhanced, revealing the history of the Cuming and Southwark collections within a rich and exciting setting.
Registrar/Community Spaces

Examples of different possibilities for future office layouts.

Diagram showing Registrar and Community spaces.

Town Hall spaces to be restored for ceremonies and events above and left. Views of similar venues to right.

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