

# Waltham Forest Libraries Refurbishment

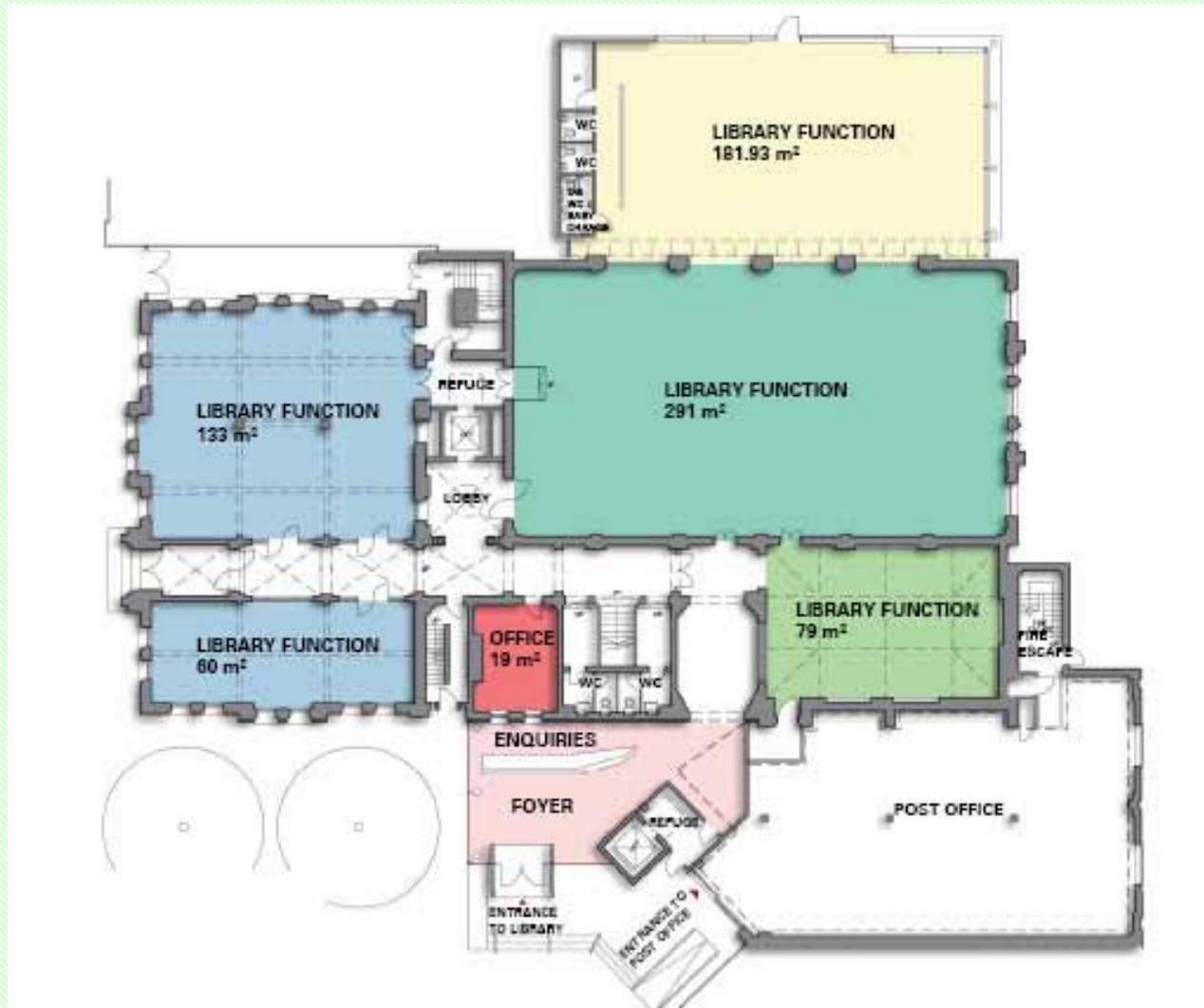
Presentation of proposals for the  
refurbishment of Walthamstow Library

# Walthamstow Library



→ Expected completion late 2007

# Walthamstow Ground Floor



# Walthamstow First Floor



# Outcomes of the Refurbishment



- Restore the Victorian facade and improve the internal space
- New entrance extension
- Relocation of main counter and reception area
- Ground floor extension to rear of building
- Additional ICT & PC stations
- Lift access to all levels
- Opening up three rooms to public access
- Return of Information Services from Hoe Street
- Use of new technology to improve services

# Current position



- Feasibility study completed
- Planning application submitted to the Planning Committee for early November
- Selection process for contractors underway
- Work on site expected to begin February 2006

# Consultation results



- 1,200 face to face survey across the borough
- Nearly 90% of users were fairly or very satisfied with staff
- 60% of 18-21 year olds used the library for study
- 22% used computers in the library
- Main use of libraries is to borrow books
- Reasons for not using the library included; lack of time, no need to use libraries and not finding reading easy
- But only 60% were satisfied with the amount of space available
- And 65% were satisfied with the appearance of the buildings

# Feedback from Focus Groups



- Larger, more open reception area with seating and refreshment, an area to meet friends, have a cup of coffee and display public information
- Support for current reception area to be a children's library
- Strong support for removal of mezzanine floor and increase of floor space by extension
- Also support for maintaining and emphasising the library's historic features
- Preference for computer for quiet study to be located away from the main library area
- Welcomed the return of the reference and information service to the Walthamstow Library