

**To the Chairperson and Members of  
The Central Area Committee**

---

**Notification of Intent to Submit Part 8 Application at Parnell Square Cultural Quarter  
by Culture Recreation and Economics Department.**

---

Introduction

This report is presented to the Central Area Committee for information and consultation purposes in relation to a proposed Part 8 planning application currently being prepared that is located within the Area Committee's district. It is the intent to lodge the application before the end of February 2024, following completion of drawings and input from the various departments and this Committee.

This application seeks to capture the changes required to the previously consented Part 8 (Reference 3196/19) including the making of a physical connection between the Hugh Lane Gallery and the proposed New Library and the relocation of the Energy Centre for the Hugh Lane Gallery into the combined Energy Centre for the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter. These amendments require a Part 8 permission, as defined in the Regulations (Article 80 (1) (c)).

The wider Parnell Square Cultural Quarter received planning permission from An Bord Pleanála in 2019. However, the Hugh Lane Gallery which is situated next door, required a number of essential works. It was decided in 2021 that there would be a number of synergies achieved in amalgamating the Hugh Lane Gallery works into the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter works.

There will be no direct entrance to the City Library. There will be an entrance to the City Library through Georgian House No 27 on Parnell Square North.

A connection between the Hugh Lane Gallery and City Library would have the result of allowing an imposing entrance to the City Library. There is a precedent set for such a connection to the Hugh Lane Gallery. A connection was previously made between the Hugh Lane Gallery and Georgian House No 21 Parnell Square North.

Site & Project Description

The construction of the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter, which includes the New City Library received strategic funding via the government URDF scheme in March 2021. The funding ensures that the Parnell Square Project Phase 1 may proceed.

The scope of works includes the design of the City library, review and necessary redesign of essential works to the services and environmental provisions at the Hugh Lane Gallery and works to the Georgian house numbers Nos 23, 24,25,26 27 and 28 including complete renovation to house number 26 Parnell Square North. Also included are tender analysis,

construction supervision and handover to Client. Phase 1 of the project is being progressed by Dublin City Council at present with the aim of commencing on site by late 2025.

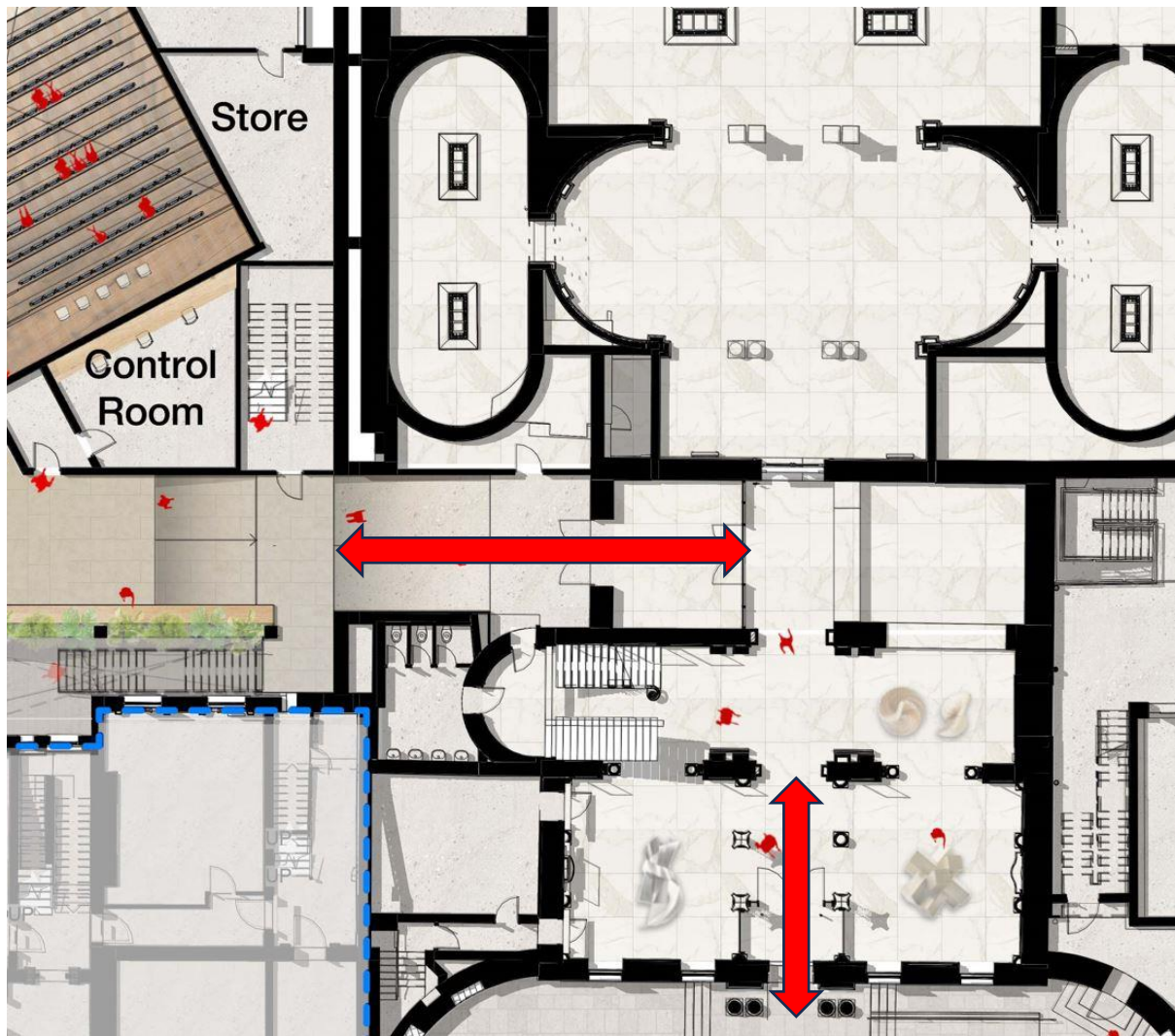
The application is at Parnell Square North, in the Hugh Lane Gallery and at the site of the proposed City Library which will be located to the rear of the Georgian houses on Parnell Square North.

The proposal involves the connection of the Hugh Lane Gallery and the City Library. The Hugh Lane Gallery is a protected structure. However, the connection will be through the section of the Hugh Lane Gallery that was constructed in the twentieth century and does not form part of the main galleries.

The connection will be in the area of the Gallery that presently houses the stained-glass exhibition space.

The works will require:

- removing the stained glass exhibition,
- removing the existing window in this space,
- forming a new opening to the external area,
- constructing a link between this opening and a corresponding opening in the gentlemen's toilet opposite
- demolishing the interior of the toilet and the adjoining disabled toilet
- forming a further opening in the party wall with the site of the new library to provide a continuous ramped corridor at one in twenty to accommodate a rise of 500 mm between the two floor levels
- Minor repairs to the corridor walls
- Providing new access doors to both buildings



***Plan showing proposed route through Hugh Lane Gallery to City Library***

Supervision of the works will be undertaken by a Conservation Architect to best conservation principles and to the satisfaction of DCC Conservation Architects. The location of the proposed connection between the City Library and the Hugh Lane Gallery is based on advice from the conservation department of DCC on minimising impact on the protected structures.

An entrance to the City Library will be located through Georgian House No 27 Parnell Square. It is expected that there will be significant footfall to the City Library. A connection between the City Library and the Hugh Lane Gallery will mean that there would be two entrances to the City Library off Parnell Square North. A significant further benefit from the proposed connection would be the additional footfall to the Hugh Lane Gallery.

The Energy Centre is a key component of the project and builds on the Climate Action Plan whereby the Government have committed to halving our greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050. Due to the site constraints of the Hugh Lane Gallery and the synergies with the other uses within the Parnell Cultural Quarter, it is proposed to create a centralised Energy Centre within the demise of the New Library with relevant ducting to service the environmental improvements within the 1930's Wing and the Francis Bacon Studio.

Next Steps:

- Finalise design with input from internal departmental consultation, and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Area Committee comments.
- Lodge application at the end of September 2024, with publication of newspaper notice, and public display of the proposal in DCC Civic Offices and Hugh Lane Gallery for 4 weeks.
- A report on submissions from the public received will be prepared by the Development Management team in Planning.
- A report on the consultation and recommendations will be given to the December 2024 Area Committee
- The Chief Executive's report will be prepared and presented to the Council for decision.

*Marcella Murphy*

[Marcella.murphy@dublincity.ie](mailto:Marcella.murphy@dublincity.ie)

Parnell Square Cultural Quarter Project Manager