

Queens Hall Feasibility Study

Halton Borough Council

Brief

The Queens Hall in Widnes used to be a focus for entertainment and social activity in the town. However recently leisure trends have changed and the diversity of events held at the Hall has diminished.

BE Group was commissioned to assess the feasibility of developing a cinema and ancillary facilities as well as the potential for other uses.

This looked at the practical conversion options and the costs associated with these changes. BE Group project led a multi-disciplinary team to carry this out.



Activities

- Considered the feasibility of attracting a cinema operator
- Assessed competing venues and the merits of other cinemas in the area
- Researched cinema layouts and the associated costs
- Finding commercial operators disinterested, given the scale of repairs and its location, BE Group investigated the feasibility of a community cinema
- Complementary uses assessed, including cultural, creative, office and business space
- Considered the architectural practicality of what should be retained, and where demolition might enhance the building and its setting.



Typical Section Through Queen's Hall



Outcome

An overall assessment of the building in architectural terms. The most practical uses which might be located in the building were identified which included music venue, dance school, meeting rooms, and drama classes. An operational business plan and capital cost scheme was provided and a potential operator was identified.

Since then we have been appointed by the preferred developer to review the business plans of a number of proposed operators.

