

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the vision for the reimagined space?

The opportunity is for The Coro to be an inclusive, inspirational cultural venue and community space for the people of Ulverston, residents and visitors coming into the town from farther afield.

Building on the September 2024 Cabinet decision, we now want to explore exactly how the service design and activity programme will develop at The Coro and turn this into reality. Securing the additional £3.2million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) would allow us to build on this with an even more ambitious redevelopment, however there are no concrete plans at present.

We want to work with the town's elected representatives, community, its creatives and place-shapers to co-create the future vision for The Coro.

How will the redevelopment of the venue benefit the community and residents?

The estimated £2million investment initially identified by Westmorland and Furness Council and £500k from Borderlands Place Programme will allow the creation of improved facilities in the venue's main hall and library.

If we achieve the additional £3.2million through the NLHF, this will allow for new spaces for the community - improving the cultural offer and the availability of much-needed community space.

I thought the Council agreed what it was doing last year – what's changed?

The move of the Library to the Coro is still happening and the funding estimated last year is still there and earmarked for improvements to the Coro. As part of the decision, Cabinet committed to work closely with the community to explore exactly how the services and activities programme would develop at The Coro and turn this into reality. That is what we are doing now.

However, this new exciting opportunity to secure additional funding may allow us to be more ambitious with the building in a way that the previous funding wouldn't have allowed for. We also want to hear from you about that.

What is happening to the Library?

Last year the council's Cabinet took the decision to permanently locate the library in the Coro and this will not change. However, there is the opportunity to develop the library in the Coro and we want to hear your views about that.

How long will this take?

How long it will take will depend on whether we are successful in our application to the Lottery. If we are not successful then work should start in 2026. If we are successful then there is a longer development period, and work will start in 2028.

However, that doesn't mean nothing is happening in the meantime. The council is committed to the Coro, and we will be carrying out work on the building over the coming year over and above these development plans.

Who is leading this redevelopment project?

This project is being led by Westmorland and Furness Council. However, we are clear that any improvements are driven by what the locally community tells us. That is why we are carrying out this engagement process.

How can I have an input into what is happening?

You can give us your views by filling in a special survey available online <https://www.thecoro.co.uk/news/the-future-of-the-coro/> or completing a paper copy available at the Coro box office. We will also be holding community outreach events details of which are available by clicking the link above.

However, this will not be the only opportunity to give your feedback on the development. After this initial work, further engagement will take place as the vision for the Coro develops.

How will I know what is going on?

We will be issuing regular updates via the Coro's website and e-newsletter. You can sign up here [thecoro.co.uk/#newsletter](https://www.thecoro.co.uk/#newsletter)

How will accessibility be improved in the Coro?

What changes are made will depend on the outcome of this engagement exercise. However, we recognise that there is a need to improve accessibility in the Coro. We want the Coro to be available and inclusive for everyone and any plans that are developed will reflect this.

How does the development impact on other Ulverston facilities such as the Roxy, the Spot and Ford Park?

The Coro is one part of the cultural and community offer in Ulverston. We are clear that we do not want to be competing with other venues. That is why we are keen to work together to make sure the Coro offer is complementary to other providers.

Will the redevelopment preserve the building's historical and architectural features?

Yes, the redevelopment will carefully preserve and celebrate the building's historical and architectural features by architect DJ Brundit and architectural sculpture Alec Miller.

Will the Coro be closed during redevelopment?

It is hoped that the Coro will continue to operate as normally as possible during and redevelopment works and continue to offer the library and venue for as long as is practical. However, there may be some aspects of the work that will require the closure of the venue for a period of time.

Once the outcome of the engagement exercise is known we will ensure that events are programmed around the building schedule and will try and ensure that events that cannot take place in the Coro can take place elsewhere.