



Piece Hall Transformation: Public Consultation Summary January 2012

Introduction

The Piece Hall is a unique heritage building in Calderdale and is considered by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to be the most important building in Yorkshire after York Minster. The building has been used for a huge range of activities, events and functions in its 230 year history.

In 2008, work began to transform the Piece Hall into a vibrant focal point of town centre life and activity, including turning the courtyard into an attractive and elegant new 'town square' for Halifax.

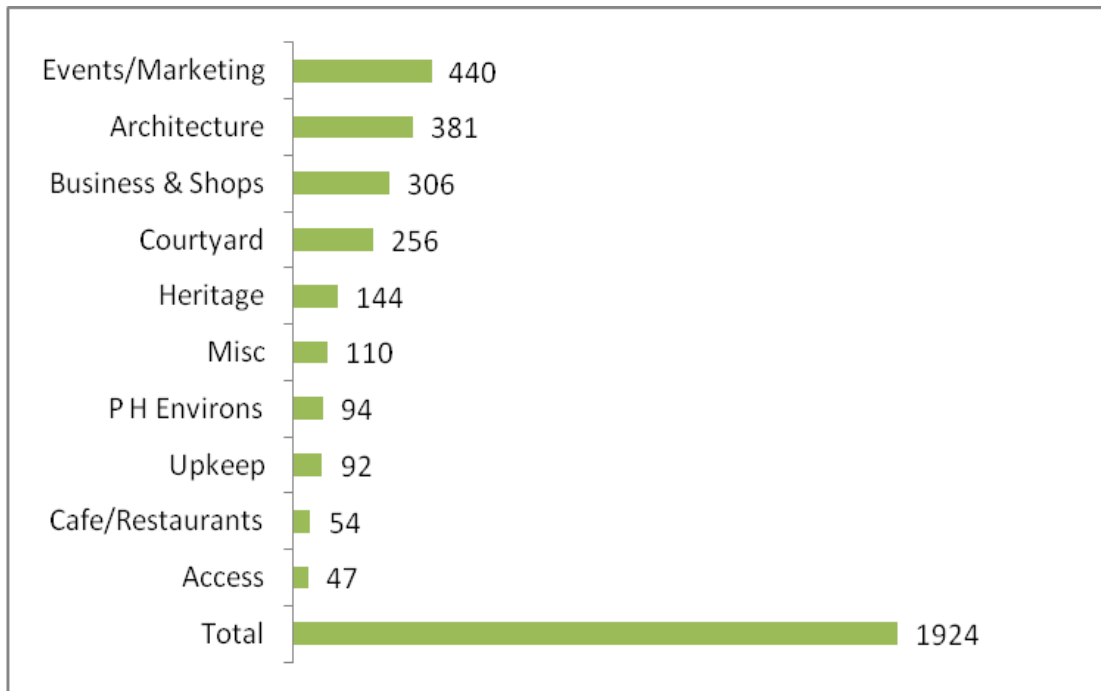
In September 2011 the Council asked the public what they think of the transformation plans. A wide range of communication channels and tools and locations were used to engage with as many people as possible.

The Results

- **2355 responded** by hand, online and via the post-boxes across Calderdale on the 12 key proposals of the scheme for people to give their opinion on which are 'very important', 'fairly important', 'not very important', 'not important at all' or 'don't know':

Proposal	Very important / fairly important
A range of independent shops and businesses	97.30%
Restaurants/cafes/ places to buy refreshments	94.60%
A programme of events throughout the year	94.10%
Re-using the cobbles and Yorkshire paving stones in the new scheme	89.70%
Improved access to the upper floors of the Piece Hall	88.10%
Opportunities to learn about the history of the Piece Hall and the people involved over the years	86.80%
Opening hours which extend into the evening	83.40%
Greener in the courtyard (e.g. grassed areas, plants etc)	77.30%
Improved shop fronts (e.g. new glass doors)	65.20%
Access from the Piece Hall through to Square Chapel's new building and the Orangebox young peoples' centre	51.90%
A water feature in the courtyard	42.60%
The addition of a fourth entrance to the Piece Hall	26.70%

- **1924 comments** were received on the one thing they think makes, or could make, the Piece Hall special. These comments have been grouped into themes as follows (the number is the number of comments on each theme):



Please Note: this was an open questionnaire and people could complete more than one questionnaire.

Summary

This research has revealed that the following proposals in the scheme are of most importance to people:

Events, independent shops and businesses, eating and drinking with opening hours into the evening and opportunities to learn about the history and heritage of the Piece Hall.

From the comments given many people used the word “unique” when describing the Piece Hall and it came through strongly that people would like this “uniqueness” preserved by being sympathetic to the original structure and heritage. The heritage interpretation centre should tell the story of the Piece Hall.

Plans do not currently include a fourth entrance and the project team are currently looking at what type of water feature could be incorporated into the courtyard.

Plans should continue to transform the Piece Hall into a vibrant focal point of town centre life and activity, including turning the courtyard into an attractive and elegant new ‘town square’ for Halifax to be celebrated locally, nationally and internationally. Visitors and residents will have the opportunity to learn about the history and heritage of the building, alongside events and socialising in the courtyard and businesses and shops will share the ambience and vitality the restoration will bring.