

THE FRASER CENTRE: ACHIEVING CHANGE

APPLICANT

The Fraser Centre Community Trust
www.thefrasercentre.com

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£984,202

£200,000
(20.3%)

£784,202

Tyne Esk LEADER Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Demolish and rebuild the Fraser Centre into a modern facility serving the needs of the local community.
- Tackle issues of access to services and facilities in Tranent.
- Reduce social isolation in the community.
- Stimulate small businesses and social enterprises.
- Reinvigorate the centre of Tranent and foster new found pride in the town.

PROJECT DETAIL

The Fraser Centre was originally a cinema in Tranent, East Lothian, dating back to the 1920's. The iconic building had fallen into disrepair, yet it housed a myriad of activities, providing a cornerstone for the community where other facilities had dried up. The Fraser Centre Community Trust was set up in 2011 to re-develop the building, with the aim of creating a state-of-the-art replacement which fulfilled its lifeline function but instilling pride of place.

RESULTS

The new building is a multi-functional, attractive arts and cultural centre, serving a wealth of functions. All the activities which took place before are accommodated, and more, with all age groups catered for. The café is the focal point, a local business taking on the franchise, and there are smart office units available for affordable rent. The main space is an auditorium providing for larger or smaller groups with flexible wall divides but critically, serving its original purpose, as a cinema. This 21st century facility has equality and social inclusion at heart, with a dash of luxury.

"The derelict building has now been replaced with a modern, fully accessible community hub."

"The rooms are available for let and hire and has proven to be a popular addition for groups in the area, keen to use the new facilities."



LESSONS LEARNED

"Ensure you not only have a strategy for the full funding but have included a contingency budget and a back-up plan of where and when you can reach other funds for any unexpected problems."

Having someone comfortable with IT systems is essential as the application and management of the grant are online.

Large projects can have their challenging moments but don't lose sight of why you are doing it and remember the benefits the project will bring to the community when it is complete."