



Blackhall Library: Update

We're bringing you a new temporary library at Davidson's Mains Primary

We know how important it is that you have access to quality local services in places that are convenient and accessible for you, your family and people across Blackhall and Davidson's Mains.

That's why we're proposing a temporary Blackhall Library at Davidson's Mains Primary School until a long term solution can be delivered.

At the same time, we want to improve access around the school site to create a safer environment for everyone.

Update on Blackhall Library upgrade options

Blackhall Library has been closed since September 2023, following the discovery of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). The poor condition of the RAAC at the Library was reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 25 January 2024.

Options to replace the RAAC in the longer term are complex due to the extent of work required, the potential costs and the wider condition of the building.

We will open a 12-week community engagement exercise after the Easter break to share the outcomes of the options appraisal (including refurbishing the existing building, rebuilding it or relocating to another site) to help us find the preferred longer-term solution and determine the business case.

We estimate it could take three to four years to deliver the long-term solution.

A mobile library service has been provided in the meantime, but we know this is not ideal as we are unable to deliver the full range of library services from a vehicle. Due to the length of time the Blackhall Library service has been impacted it was agreed by the [Finance and Resources Committee on 19 September 2024](#) that a temporary library facility will be delivered on the site of Davidson's Mains Primary School.

Key details for the temporary library

We will install a modular building for temporary use by Blackhall Library until a longer-term solution is agreed.

- **Location:** The building will be located to the front of the school on the site of the former classrooms. It will be fenced off from the rest of the school site with segregated access.
- **Opening hours:** We are still determining the opening times, but these will be different from school hours to avoid congestion at the start and end of the school day.
- **Timescales for delivery:** We plan to install the unit during the summer holiday period to minimise disruption to the school, with a target operational date of mid-October. The final details for delivery are still to be confirmed. Options are shown on the plan overleaf. The modular construction means that disruption will be minimal.
- **Plan:** The facility will be approximately half the size of the existing library, and will include space for a children's library, adult library, teen space, study space and multi-purpose meeting space.
- **Services & Activity Programme:** The school and the community will be able to influence the service and activities that will take place at the replacement library. The school will be able to make use of the library facility, and we expect that the closer relationship with the school will bring wider benefits for learning.

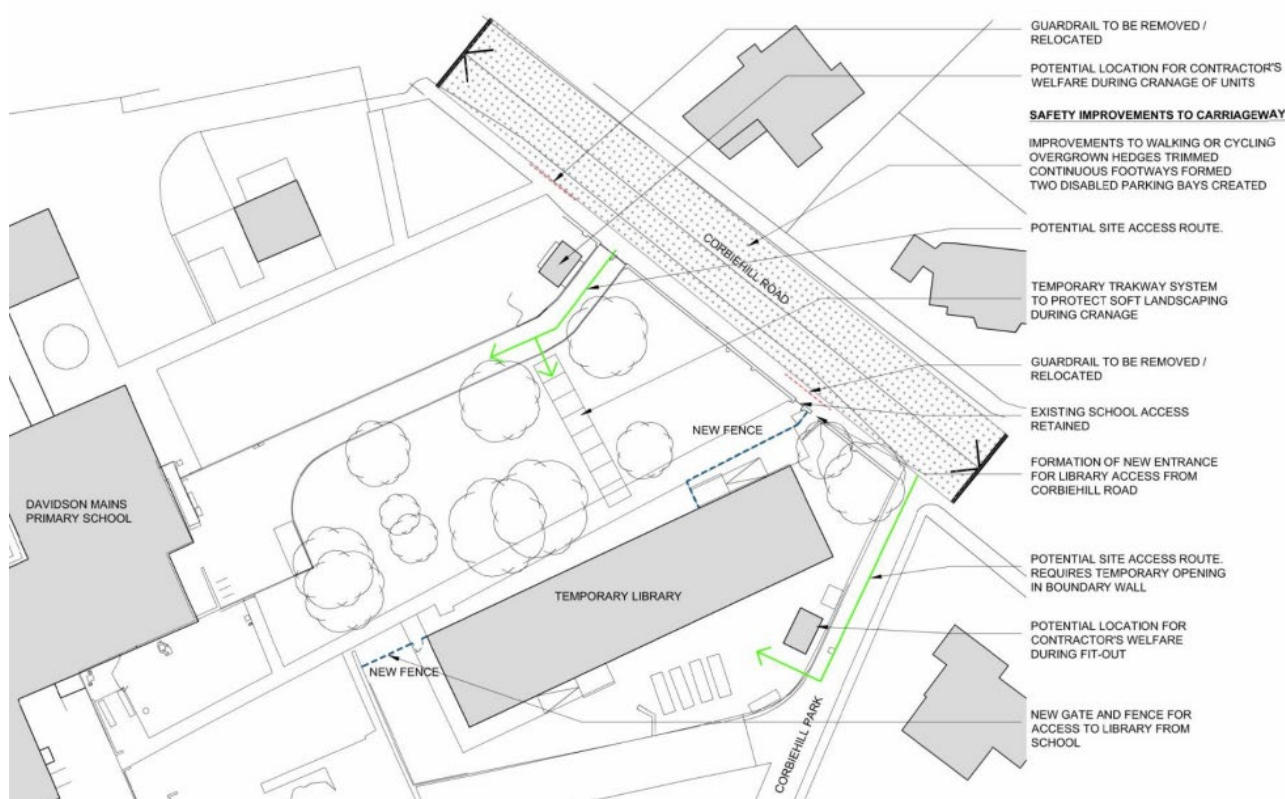
Safety improvements

We will deliver a number of important safety improvements as part of these works:

- Improving the fencing at the front of the school and the path outside the existing school gate and library site entrance to address concerns around congestion.
- Cutting back hedges blocking the pavement opposite the school.
- Improving the junction crossing point either side of school entrances with a new continuous footway to make this safer for pedestrians.
- Strengthening parking restrictions immediately outside the school boundary.



Site plan



Next steps

- We will submit a Planning Application for the temporary facility.
- A working group, with the school and Parent Council representatives, will continue throughout the process of delivering the temporary library facility and associated improvements.
- We will commence wider community engagement and consultation on the longer-term solution for the library after the Easter break 2025.

Contact us

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions: 20minuteneighbourhood@edinburgh.gov.uk