



Blackhall Library: Update

A new temporary library at Davidson's Mains Primary School

We have been exploring options to replace the Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) discovered at Blackhall Library since its closure in September 2023. Due to the extent of works required, the options are complex and a long-term solution will take time to be delivered.

We know that prior to closing, Blackhall Library was the city's third largest lending library and provided a wide range of community events and activities. It's important that you, your family and people across Blackhall and Davidson's Mains have access to quality local services in places that are convenient and accessible.

That's why we've been progressing plans for a temporary library at Davidson's Mains Primary School. The temporary unit will provide access to library services while we work on a long-term plan for the library and community services in the area.

Update on the delivery of the temporary library

A planning application has been submitted seeking permission for a '*temporary library building with associated infrastructure and landscaping*'. The [planning application](#) was granted permission at Development Management Sub Committee on Wednesday 25 June 2025.



To minimise disruption to the school community the more disruptive works will take place during school holidays. This will include preparatory works during the summer. The temporary unit will be delivered and installed during the October break with the aim of completing the works on site and opening the library in winter 2025/26.

The mobile library service will continue to operate in the meantime. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we deliver a limited range of library services from the vehicle.

We will provide a further update in the autumn including details of the temporary library operating times and the service/activity programme.

Safety improvements

While we are working to provide a temporary library for the community, we want to improve access around the school site to create a safer environment for everyone.

We are working to deliver several safety improvements to Corbiehill Road. The following works are planned to take place during the summer and October break:

- Widening the footway to the south of the school's central entrance.
- Installing continuous footways across Corbiehill Park and the entrance to the school car park. This will make it easier and safer to cross the road and access the primary school.
- Installing bike racks outside the southern entrance to the school and the library. Two disabled parking bays will also be provided on Corbiehill Road, just south of the temporary library.
- Widening the pavement to the north of the pedestrian crossing.
- Upgrades to the fence at the front of the school to accommodate the new library and improving fencing elsewhere in the school grounds.

Long term Library provision

In September we will open a 12-week engagement exercise with the wider community on a long-term solution for the provision of library services in the Blackhall and Davidson's Mains area.

This engagement will include sharing the outcomes of the options appraisal (including refurbishing the existing building, rebuilding it or relocating to another site) to help us develop a longer-term solution and business case.

We know how important this service is to the community and want to hear from as many people in the community as possible. We will include opportunities for the wider community to provide feedback on a possible long-term option and influence how library services are provided in Blackhall and Davidson's Mains. We will continue to work with stakeholders including the working group with Parent Council and School representatives and The Friends of Blackhall Library.

Contact us

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