



**PENZANCE  
COUNCIL**

**PENLEE CENTRE  
PENLEE PARK  
PENZANCE  
CORNWALL TR18 4HE  
Telephone: (01736) 363405  
Email: [info@penzance-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@penzance-tc.gov.uk)**

**20 September 2024**

## **PENZANCE COUNCIL – PENLEE HOUSE GALLERY & MUSEUM LEARNING CENTRE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Penzance Council is sourcing appropriately qualified contractors to submit a quote to provide a package of work forming a feasibility study for a new Learning Centre.

### **Project background:**

The Coach House in Penlee Park has, to date, housed workshops and community activities as well as providing storage for education materials but is in desperate need of renovation. Penzance Council wishes to create a new Learning Centre within Penlee Park to enable the highly-regarded work of the Learning Team to expand.

Simultaneously, a successful application to the Town Deal Enterprise Grants scheme means that the Coach House will be redeveloped into a café, commencing late 2024. A new, dedicated Learning Centre will soon be required in Penlee Park to enhance the work of Penlee House Gallery & Museum.

The Learning Team based at Penlee House has developed its resources and services successfully over recent years despite the sub-optimal conditions of the Coach House and limited office and storage space at Penlee House. Much of the Learning team's programme is financially supported by Arts Council England as part of the MC7 consortium of seven Cornish museums.

The Learning team delivers:

**Free sessions for the Under 5s and their families:** Little Penlee Explorers runs monthly at Penlee, with the entire gallery devoted to early years provision. This includes fortnightly

**Baby Sensory sessions** and sensory play, storytelling and making activities for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

**Relaxed openings** on a quarterly basis. At these sessions, background noise is kept to a minimum and there are breakout areas and object handling sessions to enable a more sensory experience.

**Arts & Health sessions** provide free artist-led workshops for adults experiencing long-term health conditions affecting their wellbeing.

A brand new **After School Club** was trialled in 2023 using funding from Little Parc Owles Trust. This has been so successful that we have used Arts Council funding to continue to offer this.

Penlee House has worked in partnership with local charity **Trelya**, based at the Lescudjack Centre on Treneere Estate. Penlee House has been running a **monthly art club for children and families**, using images of paintings and objects from the collections to inspire artwork in different media. An exhibition of this work was held at Penlee House.

This is alongside the **formal learning sessions** which are curriculum-based workshops that are provided for students from 4 years old to Higher Education.

The new Learning Centre is envisaged to be a flexible and multi-purpose space that will allow for all types of creative activity as well as a space suitable for lectures/talks for a minimum audience of 50 people. The Centre we are hoping for will be zero carbon and will have minimal impact on the environment. It will be flooded with daylight and able to meet the needs of our diverse audiences, enabling more of the work we already deliver (as listed above) and to broaden the range of what can be delivered. It should be a space available for community hire/usage with space to exhibit work produced as part of community projects. The new space will be situated within a Conservation Area and sympathetic to the surroundings. It will be an inspiring, accessible and comfortable space for all users.

#### **Contractor deliverables:**

- Identify and consult with key stakeholders to determine (i) feasibility of the proposed locations as a site for the Learning Centre, (ii) requirements of Learning Centre and (iii) potential funders
- Funding briefing paper with analysis of fundraising options and likelihood of success as well as recommendations/contacts for progressing the various options
- Regular attendance at project meetings to meet key stakeholders and report progress
- Brief for architect up to RIBA Stage 2
- Produce options appraisal for site
- Produce outline business case for project's sustainability

#### **Outcomes:**

- Penzance Council can appraise the suitable sites for the Learning Centre and is ready to commission an architect
- Penzance Council can produce a clear action plan to raise funds for the building
- Penzance Council has a clear business case to determine the sustainability of the project and is able to evaluate the project to determine progression to next stage

**Target Audience:** Families, Under-5s, School students, Further Education and Higher Education students, Adults with long-term health conditions, lecture audiences, community groups, Friends of Penlee House, Penzance Council.

**Key Message:** A new, bespoke Learning Centre will be a fantastic asset for Penlee House, for children and young people, and the parish of Penzance's various communities.

**Timeline for this initial piece of work:** October start. January 2025 completion.  
**Budget:** £10,000, which is being funded by the Friends of Penlee House

Returned quotations for the feasibility study will be assessed on three main criteria in order to appoint the successful contractor to undertake this work:

- 1) Comprehensive explanation on how the contractor will achieve the requirements set out in the Deliverables section above = 30%**
- 2) Cost = 40%**
- 3) History/Evidence of having carried out similar pieces of work in the past = 30%**

If you would like an informal conversation about the requirements or to arrange a site visit, please contact Anna Renton [arenton@penleehouse.org.uk](mailto:arenton@penleehouse.org.uk) (Working days: Wednesday to Friday).

Quotations for the survey should be returned to [arenton@penleehouse.org.uk](mailto:arenton@penleehouse.org.uk) by 5pm on Friday 18 October.