

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHARITABLE OBJECTS

Notice is hereby given that **High Peak Borough Council in its capacity of sole Trustee of Victoria Hall, Glossop ('the Charity')**, an unincorporated charity established and governed by an Indenture dated 2 October 1889 intends to amend its governing document in order to change its charitable objects. In order to effect this change of objects of the Charity, the Council intends to rely on the statutory powers at section 280A of the Charities Act 2011. The suggested change of charitable objects is motivated by a desire of the Trustee to ensure the ongoing use of Victoria Hall, Glossop, as a community asset.

The proposed amendment of the Charity's objects would result in the Charity's revised objects to read as follows (the "Revised Objects"):

"To further or benefit the residents of High Peak Borough Council (or its successor) and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents."

Following this amendment, the Trustee will be administering the Charity for the benefit of the public in accordance with these Revised Objects. Any property of the Charity that constitutes **designated land**, such as Victoria Hall, Glossop, will continue to be held as designated land and be used solely in furtherance of the Charity's Revised Objects and in accordance with applicable charity law.

Additional background information regarding the proposed change is set out in the Appendix below. Further information may also be obtained from:

Legal Services

High Peak Borough Council

Buxton Town Hall

Buxton

SK17 6EL

consultation@highpeak.gov.uk

Members of the public are invited to submit comments on the proposed amendment. Comments should be made in writing and sent by email or by post to the address above.

All comments must be received **no later than one month after the date on which this notice is first published.**

Date: 19th January 2026

Appendix

Additional information regarding suggested change of objects of Victoria Hall, Glossop, Charity

1. **Background:** The revision of the Charity's objects was prompted by comments made by the Charity Commission for England and Wales during the course of its consideration of a matter connected to the Charity which led the Council to consider how the future use of Victoria Hall, Glossop, as a community asset can be secured in full compliance with charity law.
2. **Legal basis for amendment of Charity's objects:** section 280A of the Charities Act 2011. Such amendments require the Charity Commission's consent pursuant to section 280A(8)(a) of the Charities Act 2011. The Commission has invited the Council to undertake a public consultation on the suggested amendments as part of the approval process.
3. **What were the Charity's original purposes when it was initially set up?**

The purposes were set out in the original (and still current) covenant, which was incorporated in the conveyance from the landowner Lord Howard to the Jubilee Memorial Committee on 18th October 1887:

.....a public building to be devoted and appropriated partly to the purpose of a public Free Library Museum School of Science and School of Art for the use of the inhabitants of the said Borough [of Glossop] or for such Public Free Library alone or any two or more of such purposes always including a Public Free Library and partly to the purpose of a public Hall for the purposes of the said Borough and the use thereof by its inhabitants...."

We understand that there are extensive references in the contemporaneous minutes of Glossop Borough Council plus coverage in the Glossop Chronicle, in particular of the foundation stone laying ceremony in July 1887, which throw more light on the intentions of the donors, Edward Partington and Herbert Rhodes, and the members of the Jubilee Memorial Committee, acting on behalf of the Borough Council, to whom the building was conveyed.

Primarily, it was intended to meet two recognised needs of the town. First of all, at that time the only public hall for "concerts and entertainments" was the Town Hall, but this dated from the 1840s since when the population had greatly increased, and it was then considered too small to host large public social events such as dances or to attract performers of quality. Secondly, there was a lack of free technical education, i.e. vocational education for young people and adults beyond the elementary level. Messrs Partington and Rhodes were both wealthy industrialists and champions of innovation in their respective spheres and in the face of increased foreign competition were keen to raise the level of education of the local workforce especially in technical subjects useful to local industry, their priority being those who were unable to fund such education themselves.

The first floor was therefore designed as a large public hall for recreational and cultural events, whilst the ground floor was given over to "a reading room, library and classrooms." The library and reading room were seen as an integral part of the education provision, offering ordinary working people access to newspapers, periodicals and books which they would otherwise be unable to afford and without which they would not be able to "advance themselves in life."

4. How are the suggested Revised Objects similar to the current purposes of the Charity, and if not, why?

Circumstances have changed since 1887 in four important respects.

- i Free public libraries are now provided by statute, and the way they operate has changed, so in 2018 Derbyshire County Council's library was relocated to a new building close by, more suitable for current ways of working. The library had been located in Victoria Hall for many years, but the facility had become tired and considered less suitable for contemporary library services. The County Council decided to construct a new, modern library building as an extension to the Adult Education Centre. The new facility aimed to provide improved space, better facilities and a more flexible environment for library service users.
- ii The State now provides formal secondary and tertiary education, and although there is still unmet educational need this is primarily for further education, and in particular for groups who may have more difficulty accessing it, which is now determined less by income than by disability or health status.
- iii Glossop is no longer a centre of traditional manufacturing industry but is being redeveloped as a "hub of creative industries". To the extent that the workforce still needs technical skills, those skills now lean more towards "arts" than "science".
- iv The Borough of Glossop no longer exists, and its 1887 area is much smaller than that of the community which now looks to the town as its urban centre. However, the need for a large public hall to serve that community remains unchanged.

With the caveats above, the community's needs remain essentially unchanged since 1887, and the Revised Objects - advancing education and providing recreational facilities - encompass these needs. The main difference is removing the requirement for a "public free library", which does not diminish the Charity's educational function as libraries no longer have the exclusive role they held in the late 19th century as sources of information and enlightenment for people of limited means.

5. How are the Revised Objects suitable and effective in current social and economic circumstances?

The most significant change is the removal of the now-redundant requirement to provide a library. Otherwise, the Revised Objects cover essentially the same ground but in less specific terms which allow greater flexibility in adapting to current and future circumstances. In addition, they free the geographical scope of the Charity from reliance on arbitrary and constantly- changing local government boundaries (by referring to the current Council and its neighbourhood) whilst retaining the essence of the donors' intentions that the benefits should be for a recognisable community.

6. The factors considered by the Council

A main objective in the proposed amendment is to remove the library and geographical requirements which are both obsolete and an obstacle to plans to renovate and revitalise the building, which is at present less than fully utilised. The amendment will ensure retention of the core purposes.

7. How the change to purposes is in the best interests of the Charity

The Revised Objects will enable the Council to make the building available to the community for purposes that remain close to those intended by the original donors, allowing the building to fulfil its intended role as a community asset.

8. How the change will affect the Charity's current beneficiaries

The beneficiaries, potential and actual, are the residents of the Council area and Glossop, who will benefit from the renovated hall and particularly from the re-opening of the first floor as a large public hall.

9. How will the Council further the Revised Objects?

The Council has secured levelling up funds under the UKSPF programme for 2025-26 of £125,000 to contribute to the carrying out of renovations and enhancement to the Victoria Hall (including new/refurbished WCs, refitting the kitchen facilities, means of escape and fire safety compliance) which are designed to support the future use of the building for community purposes (as the building had fallen into a state of disrepair and the first floor has been closed off). As the funding needs to be defrayed by 31st March 2026, the works are currently under way.

The proposed amendment reflects an ongoing commitment by the Trustee to continue to support a broad range of community uses at Victoria Hall, with the ambition ultimately to bring its first floor back into public use. In terms of the immediate future once the Hall is refurbished it is an intention to formalise a lease with the Friends of Victoria Hall who have for the last 6 years or so managed and supported many community groups, and performance activities at the Hall in the spirit of the Revised Objects.

10. How the Council has consulted about the change and taken into account the received feedback

The Council has already sought the views of "The Friends of Victoria Hall Glossop", the Glossop and District Heritage Trust and other current user groups of the hall. Their feedback has been incorporated into the current proposal.