

THE PODIUM LIBRARY	LEWIS HOUSE OFFICES
<p>Purpose designed</p> <p>The Podium already has all the key elements of a modern library including: lots of shelving space; wifi; computer facilities; large study area; large event room; stockrooms. Ceilings are high and the children's area is safely away from lifts, stairs or walkways.</p>	<p>Unsuitable as a public space</p> <p>Lewis House is a fifty-year old office block which falls well short of C21st design standards for public space. Ceilings are low and the small floor size (400 sq m) will mean wherever the children's area is it will be near lifts, the main walkway, stairs and other hazards.</p>
<p>Spacious</p> <p>With 2,344 m² all on one floor, the library attracts 495,000 visits every year. The event room has a capacity for 75 people and the popular study area seats 50. The one floor layout is efficient for stockrooms & staffing costs.</p>	<p>Half the space</p> <p>With less than 1,000 m² library space split over 2 and a bit of small floors, the space is not viable space for 495,000 visits. It has no stockroom / large event room / large study space. Multi-floor layouts are inefficient and costly to run.</p>
<p>Excellent disabled access</p> <p>B&NES' independent expert says The Podium as the best option:</p> <p><i>"The library space is well-organised, navigation is simple and clear. The space is far less intimidating for disabled people than that at Lewis House."</i></p>	<p>Not accessible for disabled</p> <p>B&NES' independent expert says Lewis House is unacceptable:</p> <p><i>"The 3-floor layout will be a confusing environment for many user groups and any solution will be a compromise that many users will find unacceptable"</i></p>
<p>Ideal central location</p> <p>Centrally located close to the Post Office in a high footfall area which encourages the current high use.</p>	<p>Non-central location</p> <p>Lewis House is a 0.3 mile walk from The Podium in a lower footfall area.</p>
<p>Plenty of existing parking</p> <p>Large, 521 space covered car park underneath with lifts.</p>	<p>Parking will be more difficult</p> <p>Small, 161 space uncovered car park across the road without lifts.</p>
<p>Estimated cost £2.8 million</p> <p>Considerably less public money will be wasted by investing in the library where it is and already works well.</p>	<p>Estimated cost £6.4 million</p> <p>Spending £6.4m to turn council offices into a small library & turn the library into bigger council offices makes no sense.</p>