

Description of Lichfield Cathedral Discovery Centre

The Lichfield Inspires programme is seen as a significant milestone in the history of Lichfield Cathedral and the City itself. The two main facets of the project are essential and complex repairs to the fabric of the Medieval Cathedral and the creation of a new Discovery Centre. The centre will integrate visitor facilities including arrival, interpretation, exhibition, retail, catering, hospitality and comfort facilities. These will be located in a series of refurbished historic buildings in the southeast corner of The Close and a dramatic new glazed pavilion which will project over the edge of Minster Pool.

Kinetic's design was selected following a design competition which attracted over 20 entries from a range of local and national practices. The developed scheme responds to the exceptional historic and archaeological context. It also acknowledges the hierarchy of The Cathedral, The Close and the rear gardens fronting Minster Pool. These proposed modifications and additions are clearly legible as 21st Century interventions, which are treated with a 'light touch' where connections to the historic fabric are delicately resolved.

The new pavilion will minimise the use of artificial light, heat and water by incorporating passive sustainable measures, without compromising the architectural integrity of the scheme. The internal space will also maintain inherent flexibility to respond to future changes or spatial reconfiguration. The project will be complete in 2011.

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