

Firth Park Scheme Summary

Scheme Position: Full planning application submitted for approval July 2009

Commencement on site: November 2009

Anticipated completion date: June 2010

Scheme Budget: £3,825,000

New Sports Hall and Associated External Works – 1298m²

Firth Park Community College is located on Fircroft Avenue, approximately 4 miles North of Sheffield City Centre and currently has pedestrian and vehicular access from both Fircroft Avenue and Bellhouse Road. The school was originally constructed in the late 1930's, with an extensive new build and refurbishment scheme carried out in 2000. The amount of external hard and soft play space is very restricted meaning that currently there is insufficient outdoor space and sports provision for the number of pupils (currently 1350 on roll).

The facilities at Firth Park Community College are used regularly by the community during evenings and weekends. The proposals for a new sports facility and improved games area will allow for an increase in this community usage.

The proposed site of the new Sports Hall sits directly over the footprint of the existing sports hall which has recently been demolished as part of an enabling works package ahead of the main scheme.

Aspirations of the school revolve around the need to provide good quality, adequate indoor sports and dance facilities at the school site for the number of pupils on roll. An extensive new build and refurbishment scheme was undertaken in 2000 which addressed many major suitability issues with the original accommodation at the school, the new build facilities will allow the completion of the schools vision.

The project will provide a stand alone building to include a new 4 court badminton sports hall alongside a dance studio and new changing facilities together with ancillary accommodation. The accommodation will allow not only for the delivery of sports activities but will also include a reception and office space for staff.

The school has a particular specialism in Dance; the current dance studio is not currently fit for

purpose and is provided within the existing school building. The new scheme will aim to provide a state of the art facility to enable the school to excel in this field.

In delivering the schools vision, the developed sports facilities will be of a suitable quality and standard that is commensurate with the following key functions:

- The teaching and learning associated with courses and activities that involve a wide range of young people in curriculum, academic and vocational aspects of physical education and sport
- A local base for identified activities of community organisations that work in partnership with the school
- A focal point for a range of activities that contributes towards the City's community sport and active recreational strategies
- Providing a facility that is fully accessible to all members of the community
- The sports hall will have the capacity to be used for team games of up to 60 pupils, general community sport, gymnastics, community functions, possible exhibitions and school exam use

In developing the design, the team have employed a 'robust' approach when detailing the building to minimise maintenance and reduce the risk of abuse. Brick/block will provide a robust plinth to the lower portion of the building and tie in with the existing school buildings. A coloured metal cladding system will be fixed above this and the roof shall be of aluminium standing seam construction.

An innovative solution to heating the building is provided by the use of a product called 'solar wall' – a perforated metal sheet mounted onto the outside of the main structural wall which enables the air passing over its surface to be preheated and fed into the building as and when required through a flexible ductwork installation.

The proposals for the scheme have been generally well received and the team involved in the project development have confidence that they form the basis of an achievable, inspiring and supportive building for the school