

Personalised Learning Centre KS3, KS4 and H&HE

Scheme Position: Submitted for Planning Approval July 2009.

Commencement of construction on site: November 2009.

Programmed Completion Date: August 2010.

Scheme Budget: £5,780,000.00

Areas: New Build – 812 Sq.m, Refurbishment - 1816 Sq.m.

Spring Lane Personalised Learning Centre is located approximately 2 miles south west of the City centre in the ward of Park/Heeley. The site, chosen as a centre of excellence, is currently occupied by Key Stage 4 pupils. The new development will also cater for Key Stage 3 pupils and those attending the City Hospital and Home Education school. The three schools are recognised not only locally but nationally as leaders in their respective fields of specialist education.

Currently the main entrance to the building is from Brimmesfield Road. There are secondary entrances to the building on Spring Lane elevation and as this elevation contains significant architectural features the design teams proposal backed by The Urban Design Panel and The City Planners is to open make this elevation the main entrance to the schools. To create a welcoming atmosphere the area outside the entrances is enhanced paving forming a piazza. This area itself is accessed from the car park and a new pedestrian/cycle entrance on Spring Lane.

The original school was constructed in 1937 and following detailed structural and condition surveys it was found to be in very good condition for its age thus enabling extensive reuse of the existing structures in the new proposals. The alterations, adaptations and refurbishment of the school were developed in consultation with the three schools to ensure it meets with their current and future needs.

In addition to bringing the existing building up to modern standards of heating, lighting and insulation the brief from Sheffield City Council includes a requirement to enable installation of the latest computer and IT technology. The original building did however create a challenge to the design team as there are four different floor levels, a product of the site topography.

The challenge was how to make the access between these floor levels more used friendly and

compliant with the current
accessibility regulations.