Project: **Painsley Catholic College- Proposed T Level Digital Hub**

Title: **Design and Access Statement**

Date: **March 2019**

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Introduction

This Design and Access statement accompanies a planning application for a stand alone block for a T Level Digital Hub at Painsley Catholic College in Cheadle and has been written to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. Local planning policy was considered.

Context

The existing School is three storey with brick walls, concrete spandrel panels and glazing generally in bands around the building. Brickwork provides some solidity on the end of some blocks. Surrounding property is residential on the east of the School which is set well forward of the existing dwellings or School. The Cheadle Academy sits to the north with playing fields to the south and west. The existing School sits below the level of Station Road and does not have the full three storeys visible at road level. Only the upper two storeys sit above the road height. The overall scale of the building is therefore in keeping with surrounding areas. Newer dwellings built on the old station, to the west of the site, sit much high than the School. There is no defined aesthetic for the area.



Use

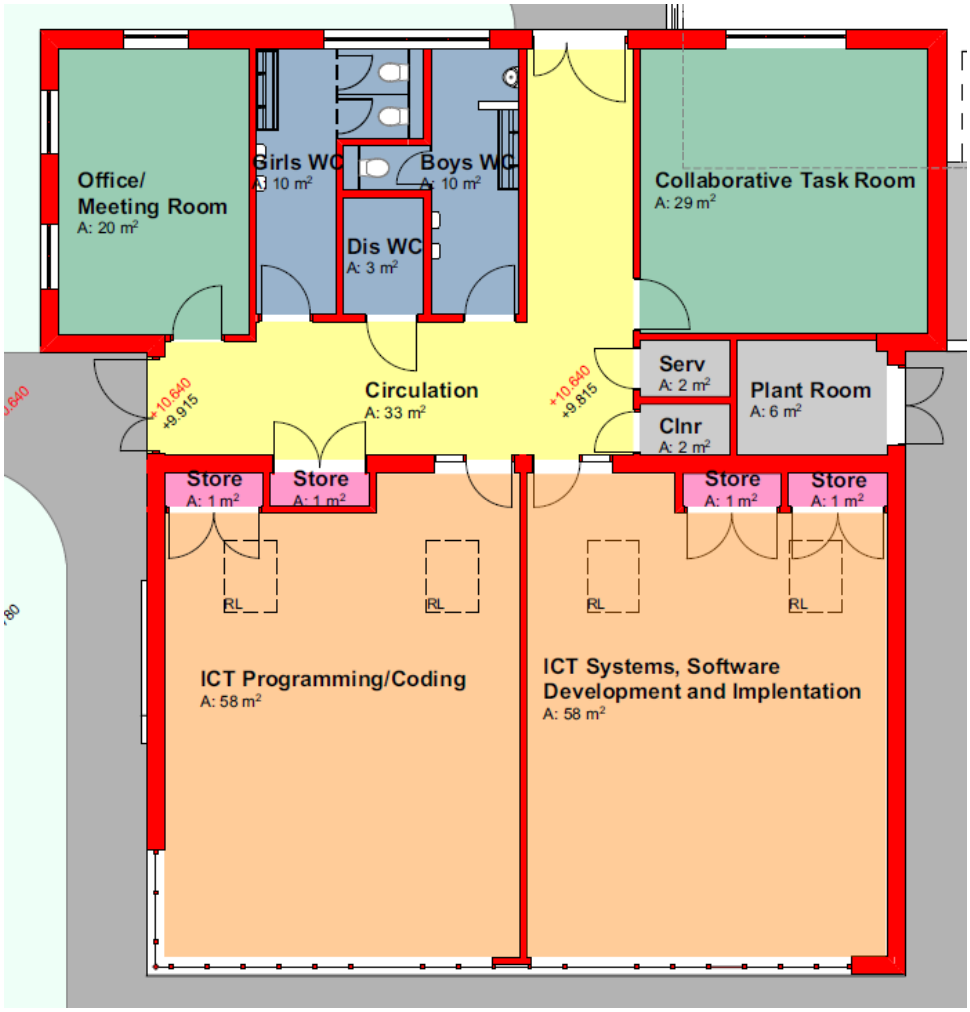
The proposal consists of a stand-alone block which will provide Painsley Catholic College with a facility to deliver lessons with a higher technical demand. The building will include two classrooms for the delivery of ICT programming and coding along with ICT Systems, Software Development and Implementation.

Amount

The proposal provides an additional floor area of 245m² which consists of and ICT Programming/Coding Room an ICT Systems, Software Development and Implementation Room, 2No. Collaborative Task Rooms and ancillary WC facilities.

Layout

The building has been positioned between the Painsley 6th Form building and the Main Painsley main School block to facilitate easy access from both sites. It is proposed to locate the building on a steep grass banked area which is not suitable for sport and recreational use.The layout consists of two classrooms, two collaborative task rooms with ancillary WC facilities and storage around an 'L' shaped corridor. Refer to plans for details. The building is a stand-alone block located on an existing grassed area towards the rear of the site.



Scale

The existing School is generally three storey towards the front of the site facing Station road with numerous single storey extensions and stand-alone blocks towards the rear of the site and surrounding the proposed development. The scale and general aesthetic of these single storey buildings will continue into the new extension development.

Landscaping

The existing bio diversity of the site is extensive with large playing fields to the south and east. The useable areas of the existing playing fields will remain unaffected. There is some loss of grass for the proposed development, but it is currently an embankment and not useable for sport & recreation purposes. The loss of this grassed area is relatively minor when compared to the site as a whole and the bio diversity little affected as a result. Tree screens to the dwellings would be maintained.

Appearance

The appearance of the existing School is unaffected by the proposals. The proposed block is surrounded by single storey buildings with a buff brick pitched roof appearance. The proposal seeks to continue this philosophy but adopt a more contemporary aesthetic which would reflect the end use of the building. The selection of buff brickwork for the walls will ensure coherence with the existing school. The building fabric will be complemented by feature rainscreen cladding to break up the elevation and add a contemporary feature to the scheme. The elevations are complemented further by the use of feature curtain walling with burgundy feature panels. The proposal includes a mono-pitch roof with a single ply finish which reflects the roof on the nearby six classroom block.



Access

Access will remain generally unaffected. The main entrance to the building is at front of the school. The entrance to this block will have a level threshold. DDA WC facilities will be provided within the proposed block.