

Project

Barnsley College - Performing Arts Theatre

(Falcon Centre)

Subject

Design and Access Statement

October 2010

Contents

Contents:

Credits

Introduction

1.00 Context and Background
1.01 History
1.02 Physical and Environmental Context

2.00 Planning Policy

3.00 The Development
3.01 Concept
3.02 Building Form and Orientation
3.03 External Appearance and Scale
3.04 Amount of Development
3.05 Process and Consideration of Other Options

4.00 Sustainability and the Environment

5.00 Access
5.01 Vehicular and Transport Links
5.02 Inclusive Access

6.00 Landscape Design Statement

Design Team

Applicant
Barnsley College
Church St
Barnsley
S70 2YW

Project Manager
Turner and Townsend Project Management
9th floor St James House
Vicar Lane
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S1 2EX

Architect
Jefferson Sheard Ltd
Fulcrum
2 Sidney St
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S1 4RH

Mechanical and Electrical Engineer
Arup
New Oxford House
30 Barkers Pool
Sheffield
S1 2HB

Structural and Civil Engineer
White Young Green
Arndale Court
Arndale Centre
Leeds
LS6 2UJ

Quantity Surveyor / Cost Consultant
Turner and Townsend Cost Management
9th floor St James House
Vicar Lane
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S1 2EX

CDM Coordinator
Turner and Townsend
Low Hall Calverley Lane
Horsforth
Leeds
LS18 4GH

Introduction

This report for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council is in support of the application submitted by Barnsley College for the proposed Performing Arts (Falcon Centre)
The College has recognised that the major constraint upon its future progress and development is its existing building stock which, although it reflects the high standard of care which characterises all of the College's activities, no longer has the necessary flexibility in use or the ability to truly project the College's image and sustain its activities into the future.
The development of the Performing Arts (Falcon Centre) will create a state of the art teaching facility for the Creative Media and Entertainment Industry Department (CMEI). The proposed scheme includes the refurbishment of the existing Falcon Centre which the College deems to be the most suitable approach to constructing a new performing arts department. The College has also anticipated the future increase in student enrolment, for that reason additional teaching space is a fundamental requirement. We have responded to this by incorporating two extensions to the existing Falcon Centre into the proposed scheme.
In April 2010 Jefferson Sheard was successful in winning a design competition to design a performing arts building for Barnsley College. The submission included a number of options which explored the College's requirements through a series of design solutions. Following this Barnsley College assembled a professional consultant team to progress the outline design which was subject to further College briefing. The proposed scheme includes a performance space and associated teaching provision which focuses on the whole spectrum of the performing arts curriculum. In addition the proposed scheme responds to the College's requirement to include a commercial bar / bistro facility and breakout space which will provide a revenue stream for the College. The proposed scheme also relates to the on going implementation of the College's wider property strategy which has already seen development of the following projects:

- Sports facility
- Motor Vehicle Workshop
- Block B Refurbishment
- Main Campus Redevelopment
- Sustainable Construction and Renewable Energy Centre

The College brief to the design team and the strategic aims of the project are summarised as follows:
-A flexible and easily adaptable performance space. The theatre to be used for teaching, performances and conferences.
-The upgrading of the external aesthetic of the Falcon Centre as the architecture is tired and in need of uplifting in order to match in with the modern new developments that the College is undertaking and planning to deliver in the future.
-Drawing the eye away from the Sci-Tech Centre and making the new development the focal point of the scheme.
-Should be enticing and iconic to attract students to study at Barnsley College and to be competitive in the respective market.
-Create the potential for revenue opportunity by including a relevant commercial entity into the scheme.
-Create an opportunity for future expansion of the buildings on the limited site constraints
- The development is to be a performing arts beacon, it is crucial for the archtecture to be striking not only during the day but at night when the theatre will be extensively used for performances.

The application is separate to – but complementary to – the previous applications which the College has made (and in respect of which permission has been obtained) for the new facilities at Honeywell (Sports facility) and Old Mill Lane (Motor Vehicle Workshop) and Church Street (Main Campus Building) which are, themselves, integral to the College's Estate Strategy.
This Statement explains the factors which have generated the design of the project, within the context of the College's masterplan and the processes by which this has been achieved.
The application proposal is the result of close consultation between the College and its design team and has been the subject of pre-application consultations with the local planning authority. The proposal is considered to be an appropriate and advantageous response to the College's brief, the context of the site and the wider needs of the Borough of Barnsley.

Phil Pollington (Education Director)
Jefferson Sheard Architects
October 2010

1.0 Context and Background

1.01 History of Barnsley

The first historical reference to Barnsley is in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it was referred to as ''Berneslai''. The name has its roots in the Saxon word Berne, a barn or storehouse and Ley, meaning a field.

Through the centuries ownership of Barnsley's land passed through many hands, from the monks whose influence led Henry III to grant Barnsley a charter to hold an annual fair and weekly market's, to the Crown following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539.

The Civil wars of the 17th century left Barnsley undisturbed, so it steadily developed into a prosperous market town. As the town was on the route between Leeds, Wakefield, Sheffield and London, a large number of coaches passed daily through the town, generating good business for hostelries and related trades.

Barnsley was one of the principal British centres of linen weaving in the 18th and 19th centuries and insured its growth as an important manufacturing town.

There is a long tradition of making quality glass products in Barnsley. Glass bottles for ginger beer and pickle-jars were first made in Gawber in the mid 18th century but the industry accelerated 100 years later when the manufacture of glass-stoppered bottles was introduced. The Redfearn brothers established their glass and bottle works at Old Mill in 1862 on a site bounded by the Barnsley Canal and Harborough Hill Road – to the East of the application site.

In terms of its industrial history, Barnsley became best known as the heart of the South Yorkshire coalfield. There had been mining in Silkstone parish at least 200 years before the Norman Conquest and there is documentary evidence of leases for coal being awarded in 1370 at Cortworth, near Wentworth. The monks at Pontefract Priory acquired a coal pit at Barnsley in 1491 for £8, said to have a life of about 16 years.

By the late 17th century coal was in demand as a domestic fuel, for use in smithies and furnaces, in brewing and other trades. There was a considerable amount of coal beneath Barnsley, enough to supply the town's needs and export elsewhere. This created the need for an integrated transport network. In 1910 there were two canals and four railway lines serving Barnsley: the Aire & Calder and Dearne & Dove canals; the Midlands, Great Central, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and Hull & Barnsley railways.

By the turn of the 20th century coal had become the most important industry in Barnsley and by far the largest employer. The profitable Barnsley seam had been virtually worked out by the end of the 1940s but coal was still to be found in 24 seams throughout the Yorkshire coalfield. By the mid 1970s the Barnsley coalfield was in decline but as a result of massive investment the 1983 Barnsley Town guide could optimistically (and ironically) confirm that "a new coalfield-from-old is being created, taking Barnsley's 16 pits and 15,000 mineworkers well into the next century on a secure and profitable footing". However, this was not to be. The demise of the coal-mining industry followed hard on the heels of the 1984-85 Miners' Strike, and by 1992 only two pits remained open in the Barnsley coalfield: Grimethorpe and Houghton Main. These were also nominated for closure by the end of that year.

As a shopping and commercial centre, Barnsley has always served a wide surrounding area and Barnsley's market has a long history of importance as the commercial and social heart of the town. The monks of Pontefract held their market and fairs from 1249 until the dissolution of the monasteries and it is likely that the inhabitants of Barnsley have been bartering and exchanging goods on May Day Green since the Middle Ages. Barnsley market has been in its time the largest open-air market in the north of England and has attracted people in their thousands every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Today, the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council area covers 32,853 hectares (127 square miles) and has a population of just under 230,000. There remain strong contrasts between the rural and Pennine setting and urban industrial areas including the main town of Barnsley (population just under 90,000) and other smaller towns and former mining villages.

This history has generated the social and economic context in which Barnsley College operates and, of course, has been a major factor in forming not only the physical and environmental context of the application site but, also, the physical form of the existing College estate.

1.02 Physical and Environmental Context

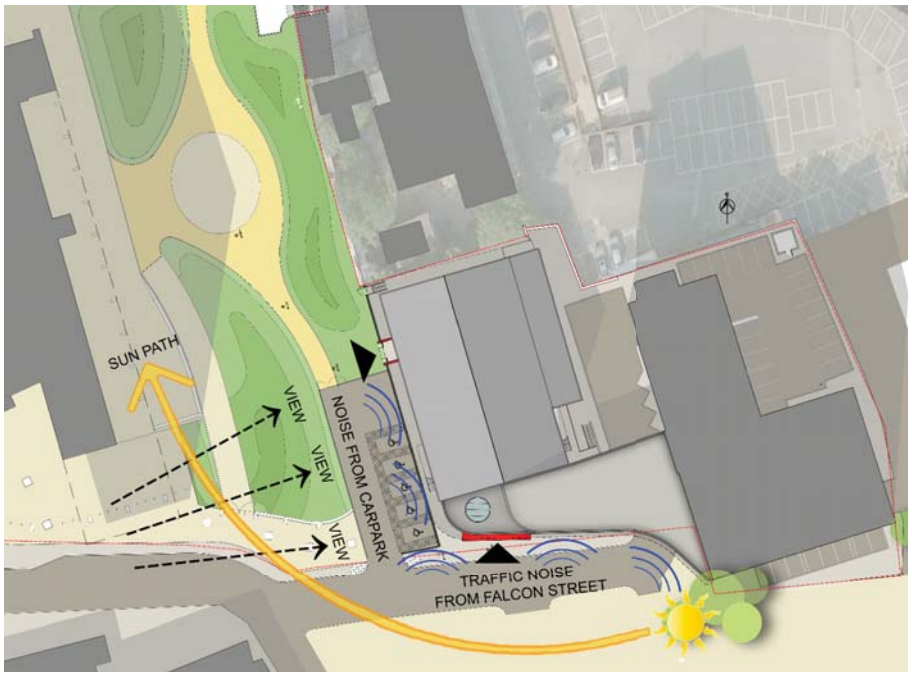
The site is located to the east of the main campus scheme. The site consists of the existing Falcon Centre and the external College owned land that sits to the south of the Falcon Centre and to the west of the of the Sci-Tech Centre. The principle frontages of the proposed scheme will be along Falcon St to the south and east and facing the proposed Urban Park scheme to the west.

The site is currently accessed via Falcon St to a certain point. Beyond this point Falcon St is subject to a road closure notice which was served during the construction of the Sci-Tech Centre. At present vehicular access to the Sci-Tech centre under croft car park is via Falcon St. It is proposed that the stopped up section of Falcon St will be secured by gates which can be opened for maintenance. It is proposed that access to the Sci-Tech under croft car park will be via a secondary entrance to the eastern side of the Sci-Tech centre. This design solution coincides with the Courthouse masterplan proposals to convert the existing Falcon St into a pedestrianised zone. The proposed scheme will be a significant element in the Courthouse masterplan. The site will be located along a major pedestrianesed route (Green Swathe) so will be visible from a very public thoroughfare. This will allow the College to promote their facilities through an iconic piece of architectural design.

The site currently accommodates the existing Falcon Centre, associated external paved walkways, ramps, retaining walls and bridge link to the Sci-Tech Centre. The site also has a number of existing trees along the east elevation of the Falcon Centre to the southern boundary. It is proposed that the trees are to be removed and substituted for new planting within other developments throughout the College estate.

There is a general fall across the site from west to east. The site is relatively flat along the north south axis. There are various retaining walls to combat the change in levels which will be replaced within the proposed scheme.

Considerations have been made towards site topography, sun paths, form and scale of the existing built context in the initial designs of the proposed scheme.



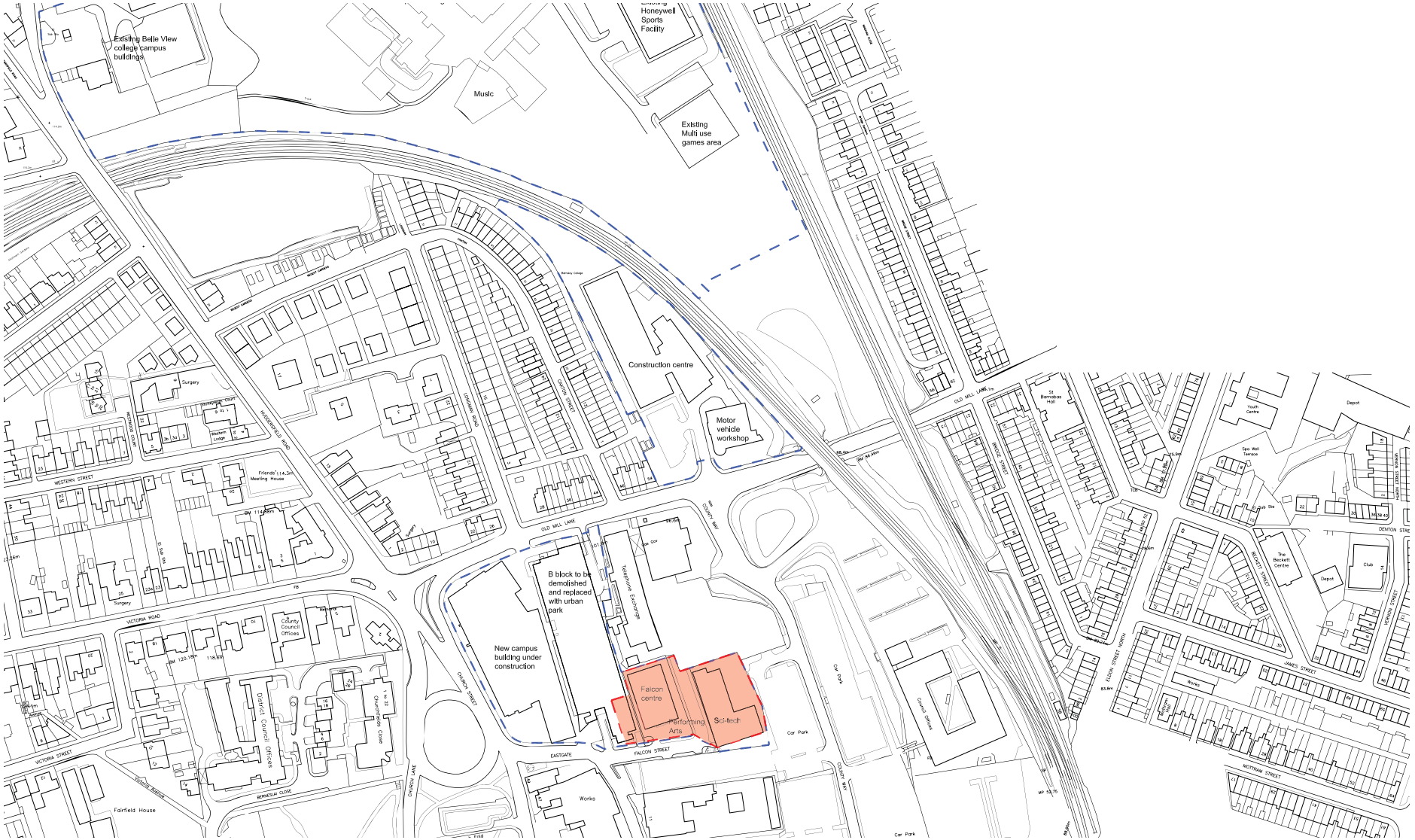
SITE PLAN SUN PATH, VISTA /VIEWS AND NOISE SOURCES





October 2010

Site Location



October 2010

Artist's Impression
Night view of main entrance



2.00 Planning Policy

National Planning Guidance

Planning Policy Statement 1 'Delivering Sustainable Development' (PPS1) was published in February 2005 and sets out the Government's national policies regarding sustainable land use and development.

PPS 1 also seeks to inform planning policy and development at regional and local levels, as the advice within this document should be taken into consideration when regional and local plans are being devised and when a local planning authority is determining a planning application.

PPS 1 outlines that the planning system has a key role to play in the creation of sustainable communities, which could be delivered through a wider spatial approach, by proactively managing development and engaging in early stakeholder involvement.

The thrust of this guidance is to create mixed-use developments and communities in highly sustainable locations, and to engage stakeholders such as developers and communities early in this process.

Barnsley Local Development Framework (2005)

The college campus site falls within the urban area of Barnsley as designated within the Adopted Barnsley Local Development Framework (2005), thus meaning that the proposal is acceptable in principle.

The Local Plan also requires new development to be sustainable. The proposed development by virtue of its design and building function is considered to have the least amount of impact regarding pollution of the environment, as in this instance, the scheme proposes the implementation of energy efficient design and the promotion of the public transport system. It should also be noted that the proposal is located is not too distant from the urban centre allowing access all the neighbourhood services such as shops, supermarkets and the town centre.

It is considered that the proposed redevelopment of the College is in compliance with the relevant Planning Policies at National, Regional and Local level. The proposed scheme ensures that sustainable development will take place at locations and at scales which are in keeping with the surrounding environment.

The following policies within the Local Development Framework are believed to apply or have been specifically requested by Barnsley MBC for the proposed development:

Policy GD1: General development policy

Proposals for development must meet the following criteria.

a - There will be no significant negative effect on the living conditions of existing and future residents.
b - The proposed development must be compatible with neighbouring land and will not affect its future use.
c - There will be no negative effect on the character and appearance of the local area;
d - There will be no negative effect on the character and appearance of the landscape and countryside.
e - There will be no negative effect on the character and appearance of public spaces, including the street scene, public paths, conservation areas or listed buildings.
f - The proposals will not affect the development of a wider area of land which could otherwise be available for development.
g - The proposals will not result in the loss of or negative effect on the function, character and appearance of open space.
h - There will be no negative effect on road safety.
i - The development is in a place which will be accessible on foot, by bicycle or by public transport relative to its function.
j - Satisfactory arrangements can be made to make sure that all users can access the development safely and easily.

2.00 Planning Policy Continued

Policy T5: Highway design.
All new developments must be designed and built to provide safe, secure and convenient access for vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, people with special needs, and people with mobility problems. When an application involves work or alterations to the highway developers must provide fully detailed drawings of all highway design schemes.

Policy T6: Parking
Proposals for development must provide at least the minimum levels of parking for cycles, motorbikes, scooters, mopeds and disabled people, and must not provide more than the maximum number of car-parking spaces set out in the Supplementary Planning Document. If it is not possible or appropriate for the minimum amount of parking to be met on site, the developer must provide, or contribute towards, off-site parking, or improve or provide other forms of travel.

Policy LCA2: Landscaping in new development
Landscaping provided as part of new development must:
a protect and improve the local landscape character;
b include existing landscape features within the new landscaping; and
c make sure that plant species and the way they are planted, hard surfaces, boundary treatments and other features appropriately reflect the character of the local landscape.

Policy D1: General design standards
All buildings and the spaces around and between them must have a high standard of design. We will assess all planning applications for built development against the following criteria:

1 : Layout
a The layout of buildings must clearly take account of the site and surrounding buildings and land.
b Make sure there is good convenient pedestrian and public transport access into and out of the site.

2 : Scale
a The size and shape of buildings must relate to the local area.

3 : Materials
a All materials must be of a high quality appropriate to the setting of the site and use of
the building proposed.

4 :Detail
a All architectural and detailed design features must be of a high quality and contribute positively to the overall design of the building proposed.

5 :Space around and between buildings
All spaces around and between buildings must be designed to:
a achieve high-quality co-ordinated landscaping, including planting, surface materials and other features;
b make sure open space is part of the design; and
c make sure a safe and pleasant environment is provided.

6 Managing waste
a Measures must be taken to make sure that waste is managed in a way that avoids a poor appearance or any negative effect on living conditions or nearby uses.

Policy D3: Safe places
Development should be designed in a way that reduces the risk of crime and the fear of crime. New development must meet the following criteria.

a Public spaces, including parking areas, pedestrian routes and play spaces, should be well lit, overlooked by other buildings and public areas, and avoid dark corners.
b Public and private spaces should be clearly separated.

Policy W4: Sustainable urban drainage systems
For all developments greater than 1,000 square metres floor space or 0.4 hectares, and for major infrastructure projects, sustainable urban drainage systems must be used unless ground conditions make them impractical.
A copy of the proposals for the drainage strategy has been included within this submission.
The applicant considers that the application is compliant with all national and local planning guidance and policy.

3.01 Concept

The project team has developed a strong master-plan (subject to a future planning application) and design in response to the ambition and vision of Barnsley College to create a Performing Arts Centre.

The designs prepared address the aspirations of Barnsley College and build upon the experiences of designing colleges within a variety of sectors. The proposals contained within this report are based upon the educational needs of Barnsley College and the essential requirement for the design to provide a modern flexible learning environment within high quality buildings on the estate.

Externally the building is to be striking whilst appropriate to its use and maximise the image of the College through an ambitious architectural design.

Our design solution fulfils the brief and creates an atrium space which envelopes the Falcon Centre and partially masks the Sci-Tech Centre. The intention is to create a new atrium link with architectural quality and flair which draws the eye away from the existing architecture and uplifts the learning experience for the students, visitors and staff. This enlarged atrium space provides a 'commercial enterprise' such as a bistro / bar area which can be used along with the flexible theatre space to house conference events outside College term time thus creating much increased additional revenue. The atrium space serves the performance space as a breakout / bar area during performances. The atrium also accommodates an upper level open mezzanine that links to the Sci-Tech Centre second floor. The mezzanine will be used as a personalized learning zone resource for College students. This design solution responds to the College's need for additional teaching space due to a forecasted increase in student numbers in the future. The architecture of this space will provide delight and a feel of openness with day light flooding into this area whilst at the same time masking the existing buildings and uplifting the overall feel of these buildings in the locale. It will be a modern contemporary performance hub that will be dramatic throughout the day and with specialist lighting (some provided by the students) at night will become the Performing Arts Beacon that will advertise Barnsley College's 'Electric Theatre'.

In addition to the main entrance within the atrium area we have created a secondary entrance and link to the adjacent urban park which includes access for deliveries and service. The proposed levels to the park would need to be adjusted to create a level entry into the Falcon Centre, but overall this poses an interesting and advantageous strategy for servicing the building and performing arts department. The location of the secondary entrance in relation to the main scheme allows a strong link between the CMEI facilities in the main scheme and the facilities in the Falcon Centre, this makes the whole CMEI department more accessible for staff and students across the Urban Park. This solution negates the eventuality of incorporating a costly services lift along Falcon St on the east elevation. The difference in level between the finished floor level of the Falcon Centre and the pavement level of Falcon St is quite considerable, staff and students operating a service lift between the levels would pose a great health and safety risk. The solution that we have incorporated into the scheme omits this risk. We are confident that the proposals to the urban park can be further developed to incorporate the link with a positive effect to how the park will be used by the College and public alike.

We have anticipated the Client's needs of creating additional accommodation within the scheme by incorporating a double height extension to the east elevation of the existing Falcon Centre. The proposed extension houses a stage store and also provides the opportunity to create a design room with the required room area. The volume of the proposed extension allows for future development by providing enough space to construct a floor slab at first floor level for additional teaching space should the Client require this in the future. Further to the development of the design, an additional stairwell, plant room and store have been incorporated within this extension. The stair links the differing levels between Falcon St, Falcon Centre first floor and mezzanine level. The stair also provides access to the roof level for maintenance. This accommodation has been formed by increasing the footprint of the extension along the eastern elevation of the Falcon Centre.

3.02 Building Form and Orientation

Access

Pedestrians approach the site from Falcon St. This will also be the case when the Courthouse masterplan comes to fruition as Falcon St will be converted into a pedestrianised zone. Pedestrians enter the building via the main entrance of the new atrium on the south elevation. The atrium will act as a controlled access to the Falcon Centre and the Sci-Tech Centre, by incorporating secure access barriers to the college facilities, the atrium bar / bistro will be accessible for the public whilst the College is in operation and when the College is closed. The building will be serviced from a proposed car park situated along the west elevation of the Falcon Centre. This also acts as a secondary access for students and College staff from the Urban Park,

Noise

The proposed scheme takes into consideration the requirement of creating an acoustically insulated performance space which will not be affected by surrounding activity both externally and within the teaching spaces and atrium. The design has been developed with valuable input from an acoustic consultant to insure that the acoustic performance of the theatre meets neccessary acoustic requirements.

Views

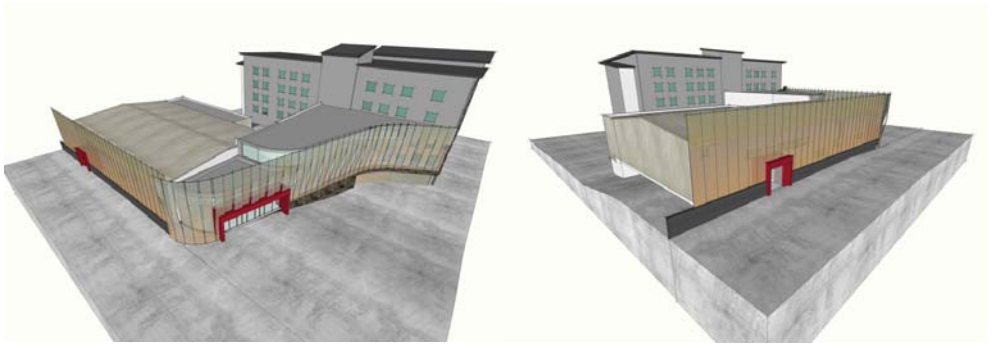
The atrium space will afford views towards Eastgate and the new main scheme campus allowing a visual link that will be as beneficial in the future once the Courthouse masterplan has been established.

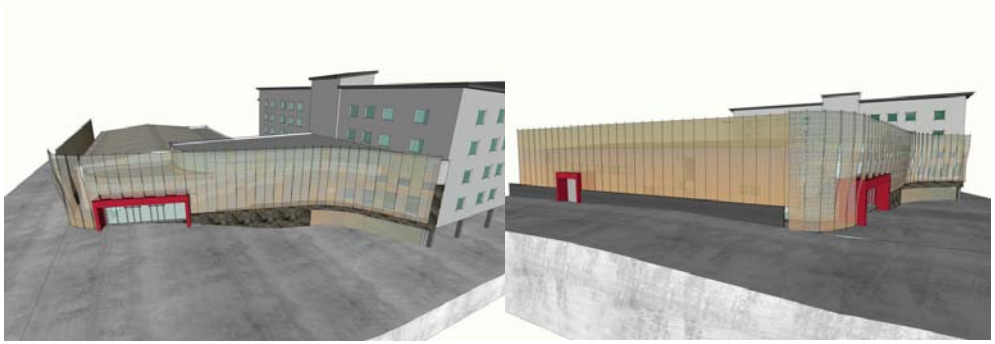
Daylight

The new atrium is situated on the south elevation of the Falcon Centre. The glazing which encloses this space will be shaded to control heat gain but will allow daylight to penetrate into the internal space. The external envelope consists of an inner glazed skin and an outer expanded metal mesh facade. As well as possessing aesthetic qualities the mesh provides solar shading to the atrium space as well as varying qualities of light and shade.

Ventilation

The atrium will be passively ventilated through the external envelope which will maintain an ambient internal environment. The performance space will be mechanically ventilated to achieve a comfortable environment for the cast and audience during performances.





3D Images of Proposed Development

3.03 External Appearance and Scale

The mass of the atrium has been developed to create an inviting atmosphere and also help mask the view of Sci-Tech from Eastgate as required by Barnsley College's brief. However, the building is brought down to human scale with the incorporation of various architectural elements such as the portico surrounds to the entrances. The elevations are given scale by dividing the arrangment of material panels and the use of a block plinth which provides a base of the expanded metal mesh. The studies included in this document illustrate the size and scale of the proposed extensions to the building and the relationship between the new and existing buildings with regards to form and scale.

The form of the proposed building has been developed and the junction between the new and existing buildings has been carefully considered. An upper and lower level roof has been incorporated into the design. The lower level responds to the scale of the Falcon Centre whilst the upper level responds to the mezzanine level within the atrium and and the Sci-Tech Centre. High level glazing has been incorporated between the upper and lower roof level to allow the atrium to receive increased natural light.

Public Engagement and the Prinicple Elevation

Considering the location of the proposed theatre and the planned developments which will directly enhance the approach to the Theatre and the high quality of the public realm along those routes, we believe it is essential that the principle elevation is engaging, inviting and will entice the public interest.

The glazed and metal mesh atrium we have proposed has two roles, firstly to maintain the existing access to Sci-Tech, and secondly to engage the public and provide space for student breakout.

We consider the following elements essential to the essence of the atrium and to the public appearance of the facility;

- The visual impact of the Performing Arts Theatre is key to its role in Public life and how the Centre will collaborate with similar ventures in the City Centre.

- We propose to develop the principle elevation to achieve a high level of impact by using the metal mesh to create a dynamic skin full of texture and colour and ultimately - presence.

- The experience of a sense of delight in the front of house area, the atrium, is key to return public custom. We believe it will be beneficial to the College to create a space which the students enjoy using during the day, and the public are enticed into during the evening.

- Careful use of lighting and manipulation of natural daylight goes a long way to creating a sense of delight;

- Externally we propose to incorporate lighting into the mesh skin to transform the appearance of the facility during the evening, and also incorporate an area facing the urban park where light projections can be made onto the mesh skin.

- Internally the combination of the mesh and the existing tree canopy will allow the atrium area to be dappled with natural light and also provide solar shading.

- The main elevation is to be of a suitably high quality to benefit from the proposed public realm developments and to also work with the restraints of the cost plan. We believe that a good selection of materials combined with the use of simple details and junctions will enable the costs to remain within budget, whilst maintaining a high quality of design.

3.00 Development

During the development of the scheme the design of the external envelope has been further rationalised. The expanded metal mesh is a suitable solution as it successfully resolves the following;

-By incorporating the expanded metal mesh façade we are able to create a dramatic design that will act as a beacon for the College.

-The mesh allows us to create a translucent façade that will enrich the internal light and shade qualities during the day. The mesh will be back lit during the evening and will be transformed by the application of different washes of coloured light.

-The mesh will provide solar shading to the south glazed façade, which will provide a comfortable internal environment within the atrium.

-The mesh will screen the existing Falcon Centre and draw the eye away from the Sci-Tech Centre.

-The mesh adjacent the Falcon Centre will be used as a teaching aid, acting as a screen for the Creative Media and Entertainment Industry department to project multi media imagery onto. This conforms to part of the CMEI curriculum which concludes in a light show called Son et Lumiaire.

We have progressed this design solution by exploring the façade in collaboration with other members of the design team. During this stage of development we exhausted a number of options which explored the formation of the mesh, panel arrangement, material finishes, profile shape and structural support. Our options and material samples were presented to the College on 13th October, after which the College instructed us to further develop their preferred option.

The mesh facade that we have developed can be summarised as follows:

-The organic shape creates a dramatic façade which encloses the atrium link.

-Two different profile types allow openings in the façade for views in and out of the internal space.

-The malleable properties of the mesh allow the curved profile to be achieved.

-The differing orientation of the mesh openings will create a rich variation of light and shade.

-The façade is made up of and arrangement of modules. The curves of the two profile types are positioned at a different level which creates the openings in the façade. These opening afford glimpses out and glimpses in to the internal space.

3.04 Amount of Development

The proposal incorporates 1804m² of floor space which is split over two levels, the brief for this space has been developed following detailed curriculum briefing meetings with Heads of Departments involved in utilising the building. This includes the performance space, associated teaching spaces, ancillary and support spaces. This figure also includes the new atrium where the bar / bistro, box office and cloakroom are situated. The atrium also houses the mezzanine personalised learning zone which serves the existing Falcon Centre and the Sci-Tech Centre.

Ground Floor Accommodation

The Glazed atrium is organised so that the box office and route to the theatre itself are made apparent upon entrance. The atrium incorporates a link to the Sci-Tech building and a generous area for a bar / bistro and social space, based on the facility located in the Civic Theatre, Barnsley.

The bar is incorporated into the atrium and an area has been allowed for tables and chairs associated with the bar. The desired number of covers put forward by the college is 120 which has been incorporated into the design.

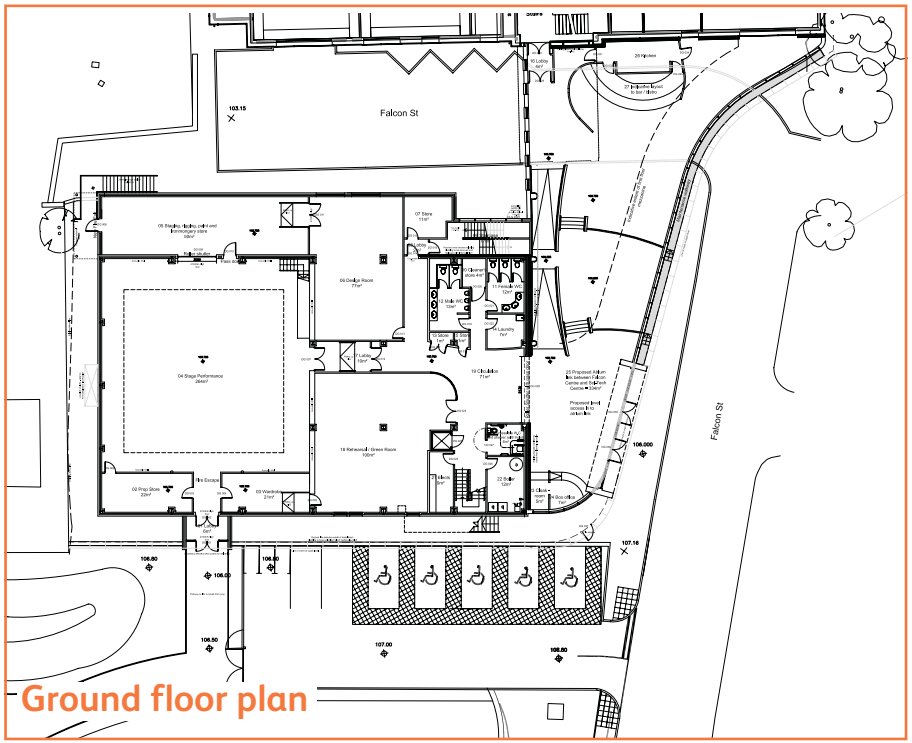
The lift has been removed from the theatre space and relocated adjacent the main circulation and close to the entrance. Toilets, switch and boiler room are all as existing, whilst some accommodation has been removed from the original entrance into the building in order to open up the area to the atrium. A security and fire resisting moveable screen will be provided so that the Theatre accommodation can be closed off from the atrium out of hours. A new accessible w.c and changing room has been incorporated opposite the lift. This location allows the facility to sit in close proximity to the main performance space, rehearsal room, passenger lift and main entrance. The cleaner's cupboard has been relocated to where the existing disabled w.c is situated.

The theatre is able to accommodate a variety of different seating layouts that the College utilises with a maximum audience of 134 achieved in the 'Thrust' layout.

Much needed storage is provided to the East by extending the building, and to the west of the theatre by introducing a prop store and wardrobe to the proposed layout.

Our room layout design allows the main circulation route to the performance space to sit centrally within the plan. The room layout also allows the desired room areas that are suitable for the rehearsal room and the design room which are based on Skills Funding Agency (SFA) guidance (formerly the LSC)

An additional fire escape is incorporated into the scheme along the north elevation for a means of escape from the staging, rigging, paint and ironmongery store.



Ground floor plan

First Floor Accommodation

The first floor accommodates the control room, directly associated with the operation of the theatre. The control room incorporates openable glazed screens which are centred on the theatre space below. The openable screens allow a link between the performance space and the control room for teaching purposes, this coincides with the curriculum requirements of the CMEI department.

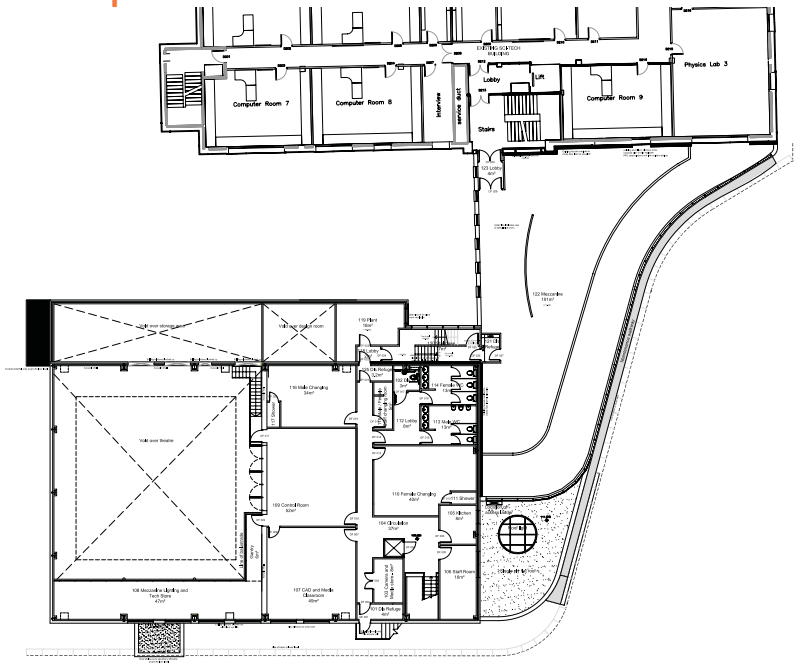
Adjacent to the Control room is the CAD and media classroom. A gantry and mezzanine lighting store can be accessed from both rooms.

The existing toilets are retained and new changing facilities for the students and staff with showers are included. The larger area is designated to female changing responds to the higher percentage of female students that attend the performing arts courses. A new staff room and kitchen area are provided on the south side of the building overlooking the atrium.

There is an opportunity to include additional floor space at the first floor level over the staging store within the new extension for future additional accommodation provision. The new extension along the east elevation of the Falcon Centre includes the plant room for associated mechanical and electrical kit that will serve the new and existing facilities.

The atrium includes an open mezzanine at this level. The mezzanine will be used as a personalized learning zone resource that can be accessed by students and staff to serve the Falcon Centre and the Sci-Tech Centre.

First floor plan



3.05 Process and Consideration of Other Options

Option Study / Design Opportunities

Within our design competition document which was submitted to the College, we produced several alternative design solutions each of which was a hybrid of different elements of the base design. Each design solution possessed a varying degree of merit and helped the College to establish a more rationalised brief during RIBA Stage C design. One of the design solutions that was produced illustrated an enlarged atrium that links the Falcon Centre and Sci-Tech Centre and provides the College with internal floor space. This is now a main element in the current design.

Planning Consultation

We have met with Keiron Dunn of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Planning Department regarding this project on Wednesday 8th September to informally discuss the design proposals. During the consultation we discussed issues of mass, scale and materials and how they have been considered within the developing scheme in order to fulfill the College's requirements.

We have subsequently met with Keiron Dunn, Allen Parks and Nick King of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Planning Department on 8th November to discuss the further development of the proposed scheme from RIBA Stage D with the ultimate goal of lodging this planning application. The general comments were positive, elements such as scale, form, external treatment, access and servicing were discussed.

We have also met with Peter Langdale of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Highways Department on 8th November for consultation regarding Falcon St. During the consultation we were able to grasp an idea of the benefits of either applying for an oversailing agreement or a road closure notice. This consultation proved to be very useful in advising the College on the most appropriate solution in the context of the proposed scheme. Subsequently we have advised that due to various constraints of the project an oversailing agreement application is the most suitable action.

4.00 Sustainability and the Environment

The project requires that an innovative approach is taken to solve the design issues using environmentally conscious solutions and embracing the sustainability aspirations of the College, whilst working within the limitations of the budget. The success of the buildings environmental performance will be measured against key performance indicators:-

- The use of sustainability design solutions where affordable
- Minimum environmental impact
- Minimum energy consumption and water consumption
- Enhanced quality of life for staff and pupils via a quality working environment.

At this stage it is anticipated that the energy efficiency of this building will be mainly due to the following:-

- High performance construction materials and methods
- Maximum use of natural ventilation where appropriate and applicable

Dynamic simulation software has been and is being continued to be used throughout the design process to maximise the design efficiency and to interrogate the following issues:-

- Glazing and fabric analysis
- Passive engineering solutions including natural ventilation
- Dynamic solar shading analysis
- Building Regulations Part L2 compliance
- Thermal comfort analysis
- Energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

5.01 Vehicular and Transport Links

Cars approach the site from the west down Falcon St, a car parking provision will be located along the west elevation of the Falcon Centre which will feature in the design of the Urban Park. This may be reconfigured in the future subject to the proposed Courthouse Masterplan scheme.

Delivery vehicles approach via the same route and service the building from the secondary access which is situated on the west elevation of the Falcon Centre.

Pedestrians approach the site from Falcon St. This will also be the case when the Courthouse masterplan comes to fruition as Falcon St will be converted into a pedestrianised zone. Pedestrians enter the building via the main entrance of the new atrium on the south elevation. The atrium will act as a controlled access to the Falcon Centre and the Sci-Tech Centre, by incorporating secure access barriers to the college facilities, the atrium bar / bistro will be accessible for the public whilst the College is in operation and when the College is closed.

We have replaced the existing disabled parking provision from the Falcon Centre and relocated this on the new car park along the west elevation of the Falcon Centre.
A minimum of 5 disabled parking spaces have been provided. In addition 2 car parking spaces and 3 motorcycle parking spaces are incorporated into the proposed scheme.

5.02 Inclusive Access

The design of the building, including hard and soft landscaped areas, has been generated to permit full accessibility to all people attending the College. The current application design is based on the requirements of the following documents;

- Building Regulation Approved Document M (2004 edition)
- BS8300:2001
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Within the external works element of the project we have provided disabled car parking as close as possible to the main entrances into the building.

Vertical movement between floors is via a platform lift or stair situated within the centrally placed core. The lift will cater for wheelchairs. The Ground floor will contain disabled toilet facilities including shower and changing facilities for use by students and the stairwells will contain disabled refuge areas.

Corridor widths are a minimum 1200mm wide to assist in horizontal movement throughout the building which also provides improved circulation for disabled students generally.

The entrance desk is placed in clear view of the main entrance and will be designed to be DDA / SENDA compliant. The reception desk will use induction loops to aid the hard of hearing.

Further consultation with the College is required during the next stages of the project. Barnsley College will form a user group for consultation purposes, from which we can hold workshops and meetings in order to further develop the design in the most inclusive way.

6.00 Landscape Design Statement

The general philosophy of the landscape design is to extend the external palette of materials that are used within the main campus scheme and the Urban Park which will incorporate uniformity and identity to the surrounding urban context. These proposals reflect the Barnsley Public Spaces Strategy with regards to pallette of materials and surface treatments. This natural palette also attempts to capture the local vernacular and defining the scheme with an appropriate identity.

Hard landscaping works will incorporate sustainable element where possible such as recycled aggregates. Paving to both pedestrian areas and car parking will where possible be permeable to reduce the extent of discharge into the sewerage system.

The proposed scheme involves removing the existing trees which fall within the site boundary. However we have proposed that these trees are to be substituted for new trees in the Urban Park which will be situated directly to the west of the Falcon Centre.

The space has been designed to make it as accessible as possible throughout the day whilst still being able to be secured at night. The area directly in front of the main entrance will be treated as a public open space both during the day and at night. The external area to the east of the Falcon Centre will be secured and only accessible via the Sci-Tech undercroft car park or secured gates along Falcon St, under the atrium.

The expanded metal mesh facade creates a strong link between the external space to the proposed scheme and the proposed Urban Park. As well as providing a back drop for the Urban Park, this facade will also be used as a teaching aid to project multi media images onto which coincides with a section of the curriculum called Son et Lumiaire.