

London Borough of Hillingdon

Middlesex Suite, Civic Centre

Uxbridge Library, Hillingdon Museum and Archives and Registrar Office

Inclusive design Statement

This document has been prepared to support the application to discharge planning condition no. 7 reserved by the planning approval for the following application:

Change of use of Middlesex Suite and Registrar's Office (Part Level 1 and Level 2) within the Civic Centre Complex from Class E (g) (i) / Sui Generis to Class F1 to accommodate a new public library and museum, involving minor internal and external alterations and associated works.

Reference no.: 14805/APP/2024/956

Date: 25/07/2024.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Design, Access and Heritage Statement approved as supporting document of the change of use application. And all the other supporting information submitted for this discharge of planning condition application.

Access

All proposed new internal doors along the access route to the library will be power assisted to aid access. Please refer to separate application relating to Condition 8 for actuated doors.

Level access routes utilising existing ramps and re-commissioned internal lifts are provided for both Level 1 and Level 2, in accordance with the Design, Access and Heritage Statement and approved access strategy drawings.

External Signage Lighting and Wayfinding Provisions

New external signage has been proposed and detailed. Position, font, size of letters and contrast to surrounding area has been chosen with legibility in mind and following best practice guidance of the University of Stirling Dementia Services Development Centre.

New external lighting is proposed to help clearly identify external access routes and entrance door locations and to provide safe level of illumination in the hours of darkness.

Details have been submitted for approval under separate application for Planning Condition no. 3 and 9.

Details of information and reception desks

All the desks have been designed and detailed to comply with the recommendations of the Approved Document Part M Volume 2, including height of desk top surfaces, knee recess provisions and manoeuvring space for wheelchair users.

Provision of Sanitary Facilities

Sanitary facilities are proposed for all functional areas in accordance with the planning approval. Detailed room layouts have been produced and submitted for the current application. Dimensions of these space and the provisions within are detailed to comply with the requirements of building regulations and the ways of compliance set out in the Approved Document Part M, Volume 2.

Accessible PC (personal computer) desks

2 no. height adjustable desks will be located near the main reception desk with dedicated PC-s. Floor sockets are installed directly underneath the desks for power connection without creating any barrier to movement and trip hazards.

Internal finishes and visual environment

Internal finishes have been selected to provide an inclusive visual environment following best practice guidance of the University of Stirling Dementia Services Development Centre.

Existing historic parquet flooring is retained to celebrate the history of the building. The floor has been sanded, sealed and lacquer finish applied. Following that the team used a special LRV meter tool to accurately determine the light reflectance value. As it is common with natural wood finish the LRV is not a consistent number, rather measured to range between 6 and 9 %. All other new finishes were then chosen based on this measurement to ensure all adjacent finishes have an LRV less than 15 points.

Skirting has been specified as dark stained wood and wall vanishes to be white paint. Skirting and architrave to match to highlight doors accessible for the public. Non-public access doors are to be painted white to blend in with the adjacent walls.

Signage on WC doors are formed as large-scale contrasting stencils.

Acoustic environment

The team has commissioned an acoustic analysis and followed the recommendations of the report to create a suitable and comfortable acoustic environment. Measure included careful design and positioning of acoustic absorption materials on ceiling and wall surfaces and the specification of internal glazed partition. These measures are important to reduce noise transfer and excess reverberation to create suitable conditions for people with hearing impairments and a wide range of neuro divergence.

Conclusion

Following the planning approval, during the detailed design development the team has taken great care in detailing and specifying internal and external features and fittings, working with the constraints of an existing listed building to create inclusive built environment. These measures will be implemented and maintained in the proposed format.