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The University of Manchester

PLANNING AND
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Design and Access Statement

Planning Application for the Installation of Art Work at the Michael Smith Building on The University of Manchester South Campus

Project No. 5821

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1.0 Introduction

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared to demonstrate the integrated approach taken to the design and access of this project to install new Art Work at the University of Manchester's Michael Smith Building to deliver an inclusive design, and to illustrate the process that has led to this proposal.

New Art Work is proposed to three areas:

1. To the main glass entrance elevation facing onto the University car park area off Rumford Street (notated on drawings as 'Ref 1')
2. To a row of cladding on the elevation facing onto Upper Brook Street ('Ref 2' on drawings)
3. To the small number of existing small opaque glass panels set into the concrete wall panelling on Upper Brook Street and Dover Street elevations ('Ref 3')

The proposals are intended to engage with the community and general public of South Manchester to remove the anonymity of the building, and are a part of the University's ongoing engagement with the immediate local community who have been invited to and have attended a number of open days in the Michael Smith Building explaining the research activities currently being undertaken in the building.

2.0 Context

The site is the Michael Smith Building where signage is principally proposed to be installed on the Rumford Street and on the Upper Brook Street elevations.

Rumford Street is Campus facing, with the surrounded buildings University facilities. Upper Brook Street is a major arterial road for the City.

Michael Smith building is the home of the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Manchester, but at the moment the building is anonymous, providing no indication to visitors or passers-by about what goes on inside. As part of the University's desire to engage more with our community, there is a wish to install two graphic descriptions of what Life Sciences are all about.

This will also enable visitors and new students to utilise these new graphics as an aid to navigation in this area of the campus.

3.0 Design & Appearance

This planning application is for the installation of applied vinyl film Art Work to the entrance glazing of Michael Smith Building on Rumford Street, to a row of existing aluminium faced solid panelling above the ground floor windows on Upper Brook Street full width, and to a number of adjacent existing ground floor small opaque glass panels.

'Ref 1' Rumford Street Art Work

The Romford Street vinyl film Art Work will be applied internally to the glazing above the existing revolving entrance doors full height, and the existing aluminium framed curtain walling transoms and mullions will be retained visually.

The entrance atrium of the Michael Smith building is entirely glass fronted and it is intended to use this to install an image of the DNA double helix. The intention is to enable the passer-by to have an understanding that all the research carried out in the building is united by this iconic molecule.

The intension is to provide a clear and striking image rather than a small sign, because of the approach to the building, typically across the car park. The proposed art work will still allow natural light to enter the reception area and internal artificial lighting to be seen from the outside.

'Ref 2' (and 'Ref 3') Upper Brook Street Art Work

The Upper Brook Street vinyl film Art Work will be applied to the existing powder coated aluminium infill panels that form part of the existing aluminium curtain walling system. The aluminium transoms and mullions will still be expressed and not be covered as the Art Work will be applied to the infill panels only.

The Art Work's back ground colour is designed to match the colour of reducing the visual impact of the Art Work, and the proposal is to display another version of the DNA double helix, but with a slogan.

The intention is to avoid the use of a 'mission statement', but use instead something that might get people whistling or humming as well as thinking about what is done inside the building.

The proposals include the application of Art Work to the few small ground floor opaque glass panels on the corner of Upper Brook Street and Dover Street to add visual interest ('Ref 3' on drawings)

Generally

The key concepts that underpin the project are:

- To remove the anonymity of the building
- To provide clear and striking images
- To provide a reversible solution by using temporary self adhesive vinyl film that will not permanently alter the building
- Engage with the local community

The signs are a self adhesive vinyl film application designed to be fully removable to ensure that the building can be restored to its original state or alternatively new signs applied subject to further approval.

The intention is to remove this Art Work in five years time or replace with new Art Work.

4.0 Access

The proposed new Art Work will be fully accessible to all.

Level access has been provided for in the original design of the Michael Smith Building to BS8300, which was recently constructed some 8 or 9 years ago, so there is level access onto Rumford Street and hard landscaped areas in front of the building from the surrounding campus and streets, and full level access to the front entrance door to view the Art Work.

There is a level access onto Upper Brook Street from the campus and from all the surrounding pedestrian routes in the area to view the Art Work, and will be on view to transport users.

5.0 Sustainability

The University of Manchester works with suppliers that share its environment aims and responsibilities, and generally use companies committed to complying with the ISO 14001 Environmental Management system to improve its environmental performance, minimise the use of energy and raw materials, minimise the generation of waste, and to ensure all products and activities have their environmental implications taken into account.

The Rumford Street elevation faces South West and the Art Work will reduce solar gain to the reception area, and will have an effect on reducing energy consumed for cooling.

The University will employ their suppliers who have zero to land fill recycling processes to remove and recycle the Art Work at the project end.