Design and Access Statement

Erection of new smoking shelter for Grosvenor Casino, Manchester Whitworth St.

Introduction

On 1 July 2007, new legislation throughout England will mean that smoking will be prohibited in certain locations. Careful consideration has been given to existing site conditions and the design has therefore been produced to impose minimum impact on the surrounding areas.

Site Analysis

The site offers an area via the staff exit to the side of the main building. This is an ideal location for a smoking area for staff, as it will not affect the main entrance of the building and thus will not affect use by customers. The proposed area is currently not utilised for any permanent activity. There are other egress options but would require staff to exit via the main floor which is not preferred for security reasons and also to reduce the effects on customers of staff regularly exiting the building.

Design Process and Solution

The design and solution has been carefully considered, taking into account the estimated number of smokers to be provided for, the extent of the existing demise, anticipated requirements in order to satisfy the forthcoming smoking regulations; taking a lead from the Scottish counterpart. The following design elements have also been examined in order to find a suitable solution; fire regulatory requirements, building layout and structure and access provision.

The design is simple and a non-obtrusive translucent Perspex roof that will be erected to the right of the exit doors and thus will ensure it has minimal impact on the surrounding areas.

Materials

It is proposed to install a translucent Perspex roof to the right of the fire exit doors using simple fixings to mount it to the pavement.

Access

Access to the facility will be via a set of double fire doors. There are steps within the access route thus may inhibit some staff members from utilising the canopy. However there is an existing facility to the main entrance, which can be utilised for those inhibited. Existing fire escape routes will remain unaltered, with additional provision being introduced such as new signage and markings where required.

The proposed location for the new canopy does not affect current pedestrian, cycle or traffic routes. Signs will be erected inside the building to inform staff of the location, additional external lighting will be provided together with ample proprietary cigarette bins.

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