Wythenshawe Park Café & Courtyard

Executive Summary – Café Rewire & Installation of External Power Supplies

As part of the ongoing regeneration programme for the park, a comprehensive upgrade of the café's electrical infrastructure and the installation of new external power supplies within the courtyard area are proposed. These works are intended to address current safety concerns, improve operational capability and support future development plans.

Purpose of the Works

The existing electrical system within the café has been formally assessed and deemed unsatisfactory for continued or future use. Its condition restricts the ability of potential incoming tenants to operate effectively and does not meet modern safety or performance standards. To resolve this, a full electrical rewire is planned, ensuring the space becomes fit for purpose and compliant with current regulations. Additional the rewire, a new fire alarm system will be installed to enhance life-safety provision within the premises.

External Power Infrastructure Enhancements

During the summer months, the courtyard hosts temporary food and drink stalls, which currently rely on inadequate or non-permanent power arrangements. To improve safety, reliability, and usability, new external power supplies will be installed. These dedicated connections will ensure stallholders can operate safely and efficiently, supporting a high-quality visitor experience during seasonal events.

Installation Strategy

A key priority throughout the design and implementation of these works has been to minimise disturbance to the building's historic fabric and structural integrity. To achieve this, the installation strategy has focused on reversibility, sensitivity, and discreet routing of services:

- Non-intrusive fixing methods: Contractors have been instructed that no fixings or penetrations are to be made into the main structural elements. Where

openings are required, these will be made solely within mortar joints, avoiding damage to masonry or original materials.

- Use of disused first-floor voids: Steel containment systems and cable routes have been deliberately positioned within the disused first-floor area, allowing the majority of wiring to remain hidden from view. This reduces visual impact within the café and kitchen, preserving the aesthetic quality of the interior.
- Hybrid fire alarm solution: To protect sensitive architectural areas—particularly the vaulted café seating space—a hybrid fire alarm system will be installed. Wireless detectors and manual call points will be used where possible, significantly reducing the need for exposed cabling and surface-mounted containment.
- Reversible installation approach: The entire design philosophy ensures that all works can be fully reversible with minimal intervention or repair. Any future modifications or removal works will therefore require only light restoration, preserving the long-term condition and heritage value of the building.

This strategy ensures essential upgrades can be delivered responsibly while safeguarding the character and integrity of the existing structure.

Contribution to Park Regeneration

These upgrades form a key component of the broader park regeneration strategy. By modernising critical infrastructure:

- The café becomes a viable and attractive space for new tenants.
- The park enhances its ability to host community and commercial events.
- The investment establishes a robust foundation that supports future planned developments by the park team.
- Overall visitor experience and safety are improved, reinforcing the park's role as a welcoming and vibrant public space.

Conclusion

The proposed works represent essential improvements to outdated systems, ensuring compliance with current standards and enabling greater community use of the park's spaces. Together, the café rewire, fire alarm installation, and upgraded external power provision will significantly enhance the park's infrastructure and long-term development potential.