The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester
John Owens Building
Oxford Road
Manchester M13 9PL

PN 9255 AMBS – The Mill Café – proposed external seating area

Operational & management strategy

The proposed development will enhance the functionality, appeal, and operational efficiency of Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS) by leveraging the adjacent outdoor space. The benefits span three key areas:

- Events business growth
- Community engagement
- School operations and facilities optimisation

The Mill Café is a premium events and dining space within AMBS the proposal is to extend into University Green by creating an enclosed paved seating area.

The outdoor spill-over space will allow larger gatherings without compromising comfort. It is anticipated that the events will cater for parties from 30 to 200 people.

The indoor-outdoor flow will create a modern, attractive venue for corporate clients, internal events such as graduation and VIP dinners.

The proposal will allow AMBS to provide an offering that is different from other university venues by offering a unique green-connected event space.

Proposed operation:
Events are currently held in The Mill on a weekly basis. The proposal would be to allow events to extend into the outside space during the months of April to September, when the event requires it and the weather allows it. It is assumed that this is likely to be one or two events per week.

The space will only be used as an extension to The Mill offering.

Events will generally be held at lunch time (between 12 noon and 2pm) or early evening (up to 8pm) and last for approx. 2 hours.

The space will be used for corporate events such as conference lunches/ dinners, awards ceremonies/ graduation celebrations, alumni reunions, school staff events, etc.

Alcohol can be served.

Amplified outside music is not proposed, there may be ambient background noise drifting from the internal event space.

The space will be smoke free – smoking and vaping will not be permitted in the outdoor space, this is in line with the University policy.

External bins are not proposed; the external space will be cleaned after the event through AMBS existing arrangements.

The pergola roofs have tilting louvres for sun control and shelter, which are operated by manual crank handle. The crank handle can be removed when not in use. The louvres will be left in the open position when the space is not in use, and the crank handle removed, to remove opportunity for misuse and shelter.

To minimize the occurrence of anti-social behaviour and misuse of the space outside operational hours the area will be monitored by the University's external CCTV system and the area is on the University's security patrol routes.