

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

9 Cam Centre, Wilbury Way, Hitchin SG4 0TW

This application is for the conversion of an industrial unit, currently used as a storage facility for a construction company based elsewhere within the Cam centre site, into a Construction Skills Training Centre. It is an internal refurbishment with changes to the access on the front elevation. No changes are planned to the rear or side elevations. The new finishes are designed either to match or co-ordinate with the retained component finishes.

It is an extension of the facilities offered by Creating Futures Together, who work from the adjacent offices, to provide personalised learning pathways that recognise every learner's strengths, challenges and aspirations.

Within the Skills Centre, learners will acquire practical construction skills in a mixture of both classroom and 'hands-on' environments.

To enable this project three spaces will be developed, a practical area, classroom and gym. The practical area will provide each learner with the opportunity to develop essential construction skills like bricklaying, plastering, carpentry and decorating, implementing the knowledge gained within the classroom environment. A gym is provided to allow the students to let off steam, develop physical strength and to encourage a healthy lifestyle. It will not be open to the general public rather for the sole use of the students and staff.

To bring the building envelope up to contemporary building standards, additional insulation will be added to the external walls and horizontally over the suspended ceilings. Spaces will be air conditioned and lit by LED lighting. For the comfort of the students, a new WC, Tea Point and Shower will be constructed. These new facilities will connect to the existing drainage points within the building. New pedestrian doors with level thresholds and new windows will provide natural light. Should they be required, All Access WC facilities are available within the adjacent offices.

The concrete apron to the front of the premises provides sufficient parking spaces for both existing and additional staff. Students are generally delivered to the site by taxi or collected by members of staff. The facilities will operate during normal school hours, within the current school term system.