

## Design & Access Statement

This report supports a full planning & demolition in a conservation area application, submitted on behalf of The Slaithwaite Civic Hall Trust, for the proposed addition of a main entrance extension, as well as minimal internal and external works to their site, in Slaithwaite.

The aim of the application is to create an accessible main entrance to the proposal and provide a better internal layout.

This statement should be read together with all drawings and information submitted with this application.

The Slaithwaite Civic Hall Trust is a charity set up to manage and maintain the Slaithwaite Civic Hall for the benefit of the community of Slaithwaite and the wider surrounding area. The building offers rooms for hire and includes a theatre style hall with a stage, a large meeting room, a number of smaller rooms and offices. The trust also promotes performing and visual arts.

The site is located at the end of a row of terraced houses, in a mix of commercial and residential areas on New Street, close to the A62. Currently, the site comprises of the Civic Hall building and a hard standing area at the back of the site. Towards the northwest, the building faces New Street, with the main entrance of the building stepping down onto the existing pavement. A lift and stair extension has been added to the original building to improve access. There is a ramp from the pavement to the external lift to overcome the level difference and that links the ground floor to the rest of the floors within the building. On the other side of the main building there is a secondary ramp connecting the pavement level to a fire exit on the side of the building.

The extension is sited adjacent to a stone boundary wall which separates the premises of the Civic Hall from the adjacent health center. Between the Civic Hall and the terraced row of houses towards southeast, there is a footpath leading to the back of the building on the lower ground floor. The lower ground floor consists of an accessible bike repair workshop. The area at the back of the building is tarmac and there is a small garden adjacent to the building for the building users to enjoy. The southeast elevation is bridged by the Huddersfield Narrow Canal

The site is in close proximity to the train station, less than half a mile away, and the nearest bus stop is next to the building.

The proposed works to the building include:

- A new extension to replace the existing ramp towards northeast to connect both the main building and the lift / stair extension. The extension will provide a platform lift and a set of stairs to create a new main entrance which is accessible for all and addresses the convoluted internal circulation. The extension will become the new main entrance for the building. The material palette will respect the traditional setting of the building and will consist of natural tones, contrasting the existing Civic Hall by creating a contemporary

proposal. The extension will be clad in western red cedar with stone plinth to match the existing stone. The lean-to roof will also be clad in western red cedar to create a statement of the proposed extension. The proposed double-glazed windows, roof lights and main entrance door will provide an open and inviting space that would allow natural light into the entrance and immediate spaces of the Civic Hall. The proposed windows and door are in line with current regulations, complying with current Part L Building Regulations, improving thermal heat loss and reducing the energy demand of the building. The lightwell proposed at the front of the extension will allow natural light to reach the lower ground floor workshops and the new cast iron guarding in front will provide a safety barrier to the building users. The immediate area in front of the new main entrance extension will allow for an 1800 mm turning circle and pathway towards the existing pavement to allow two wheelchairs to pass each other and will be paved in Saxon textured paving in natural colour and granite paving in flamed finish and black colour to create a perimeter border. The proposed new main entrance door will be power assisted to facilitate ease of access to the building.

- The replacement of the existing windows with new aluminium and uPVC framed energy efficient windows that offer better thermal performance long term. The replacement windows will be in RAL 7016 Anthracite Grey colour. The existing windows on the southwest elevation at first floor have been temporarily secured, however they are in a state of disrepair and require urgent replacement.
- New PVs to improve sustainability and help the building's energy demand.
- Some internal changes to improve accessibility.
- Replacing the external ramp on the southwest with a new checkered aluminum ramp and new railings in RAL 9005 Black to provide a secondary fire escape route out of the large meeting room. The existing ramp is corroding and needs replacing for health and safety reasons.
- Replacing the existing large windows on the lower ground floor with by-fold doors to open the space towards the back of the building and on to the canal by improving access.
- Forming level access to the south entrance on the canal.
- New external signage to improve wayfinding.