AtkinsRéalis

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Application reference: PP-13575782

Site Address: 270 Whitley Wood Rd, Reading RG2 8FT

This statement has been prepared in support of the application for Full Planning Permission for proposed improvements to Whitley Wood Fire Station, located in Reading, Berkshire. Whitley Wood Fire Station is one of 5 stations, run by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, being submitted for decarbonisation improvements through the PSDS.

Location:

The application site is an active fire station which was opened in 1992. The site is relatively level and consists of clear boundaries.

Proposal:

The proposed works aim to enhance the energy efficiency and sustainability of the building. The upgrades are intended to improve energy efficiency and electrify the building's heat source to reduce the buildings carbon footprint. An energy audit and heat decarbonisation report has been undertaken, identifying that the heating systems were end of life along with necessary glazing replacements. Due to a high number of personnel onsite, strict phasing of works is required to ensure disruption to business is minimised.

We are proposing to carry out the following works:

1. Existing windows will be replaced with energy efficient double glazed units where required. This upgrade will significantly reduce heat loss, improve thermal comfort for workers and contribute to the building's sustainability.

2. Electrification of the heating systems through the installation of air-source heat pumps. Installation and existing heating strip out works are likely to be phased and zoned to certain areas of the station at a time. As these works will result in a loss of heating for the period of installation, they are being targeted to occur outside of the main heating system (May-September). Provisions can be made for temporary heating in some areas, if required.

The works are anticipated to be completed between May-September 2025.

Access:

Due to the nature of the proposed works, access to the site will remain unchanged. The proposed heat pump siting locations have been agreed with the building users and do not have any significant effect on access to the existing fire stations.