Client’s Vision

The project aimed to deliver a landmark building to challenge engrained negative perceptions of the area: a new Sixth Form College and Library for north Manchester, located on the site of a Victorian Grade 2 Listed former Public Baths. The “combined” facility was intended to provide appropriate and qualitative accommodation to enable delivery of key public services within an area scheduled for regeneration. The site is in Harpurhey, two miles from central Manchester, in the second most deprived ward in the country.

Innovation and Excellence

Constructed on the site of a Listed building, the college offers education and community facilities for the 21st century providing both dedicated learning zones and shared public spaces. A dramatic four storey atrium at the entrance provides an immediate visual link to all areas of the building with clear views out to the community garden and urban streetscape. The design is pioneering in its use of integrated sustainable design features including the micro-generation of renewable energy.

Sustainability

The building is the largest FE project in the country with a high rating BREEAM Award and is promoted as an exemplar by BRE. The Award recognises the effective strategies for materials, embedded energy, energy efficiency and transport as well as climate change measures through thermal mass and rainwater harvesting. Flexible design accommodates pedagogical change and exposed ICT distribution systems are included. The physical quality of the learning environment uses a robust and high quality palette of materials with low maintenance requirements.

Phase 1 September 2005: main college accommodation available in time for enrolment.

Phase 2 January 2006: including refectory and public library.

Floor Area: 5,075sqm.