10th July 2009

SERVICE WORKSHOP EXTENSION

The Fire Service workshop was constructed in 1980 to accommodate the repair and maintenance of the counties fire service fleet appliances vans cars and equipment.

The Appliance fleet at that time consisted of Bedford TK based water tenders of various body manufactures, the physical size of these vehicles was in line with the amount of specialised equipment carried; basically they were designed to fight fires, the overall length of these vehicles was in the region of 6 meters and the wheel base of 3.5 meters.

The special aerial appliances were found to be to long to be contained in a bay and consequence one bay was extended to accommodate these three appliances from the opening of the workshop.

With time, evolution in vehicle design and the change in the roll of the fire service. Fire appliances have become longer to accommodate the equipment now require for the firefighter to carryout the many tasks which now fall under the Fire Services act 2004. The standard appliance now is 8.5 meters in length with a wheelbase of 4.3 meters.

To ease maintenance the appliance has a fully tilting crew cab to allow access to the engine and gearbox. To comply with manual handling requirements the 13.5 meter ladder is now stowed on a beam gantry on the roof of the appliance. This has to be unshipped to allow the crew cab to be tilted forward.

This action of the cab and ladder gantry extends the length of the appliance by another 2.5 meters the bays of the workshop are 9 meters in length, for repair and maintenance to be carried out on a appliance the bay door must be open at all times. This through the winter months puts the heating costs up and the health safety and welfare of the employees in jeopardy.

It is proposed that the four bays are extended out to bring them in line with the already extended bay.

K Jones

Engineering Services Manager
Design and Access Statement

Design

The Fire Station Maintenance Workshop is to be provided with an extension at the front of the building to accommodate larger Appliances than the building was originally designed for.

The form and appearance of the new extension will follow the theme of the original building with horizontal metal cladding at high level above a masonry base. The choice of the external materials will be selected to match the type, colour and texture of the existing buildings where possible.

Access

Level external access is available within the site to the perimeter of the Workshop. At the perimeter vehicle entrances to the five working bays currently have flush thresholds which will be replicated within the proposed extension.

Existing fire escape doors in each end of the building also provide separate pedestrian access points to the Workshop. The southern pedestrian access has a stepped approach and it is intended to make this approach and entrance suitable for visiting wheelchair users.