20-040 GMB Council Officer Rooms AHU

Design Statement

COVID 19 continues to affect us all in our personal lives, and working lives. It continues to place our health and the health of others at risk and hinder our movements on a day to day basis.

A big concern about the virus is that it continues to spread in the air and therefore internal working environments must have a regular air change if they are to be occupied by staff and councillors safely.

The offices currently serving our Council Officers and also adjacent to these offices, the Independent Councillors office, are located within Inverclyde Council’s Greenock Municipal Building. It is important to note that this is an ‘A’ Grade listed building that operates as the administrative centre of the local authority. It is necessary to ensure that the building serves in a modern capacity whilst still preserving the features that qualify its listed building status.

The offices in consideration do not meet current ventilation standards. There is now an urgency to make necessary changes and ensure that these rooms comply with current Building Standards.

None of these rooms are served with a window to allow a natural ventilation solution. We have consulted and determined that the problem is best served via a mechanical ventilation solution.

We are conscious of the issues relating to adding further loadings to an existing older roof and have therefore opted for mounting the Air Control Unit, and the associated ducting from supports, on to the existing external walls.

The ducting that supplies fresh clean air and extracts air will enter the building through a part of the roof where currently a skylight is located. The skylight will be removed as it no longer serves to provide natural daylight. A new lead capped plywood deck mounted hood on a supported upstand will replace the existing skylight. Ducting will enter the building and extend internally at high level to reach the 3no. rooms requiring ventilation.

We have deliberately sited the proposed plant and ducting in a location that would minimise the visual impact to the building, whilst still being a suitable location for servicing the rooms and enabling wall mounting of associated items.