

Heritage Statement

Council Office, Church walk, Clitheroe

Site Location

The Council offices are located on Church Walk, in the Centre of the picturesque market town of Clitheroe. The site is nestled away behind buildings fronting two of the town's main streets, King Street and Church Street. The building sits high up on the site, at the top end of one of the towns short stay car parks, accessible from Railway View Ave. The site was originally covered by the long plots of the buildings fronting King Street and Church Street.

Historical Context

Although the Council Office is not a listed building it is situated within Clitheroe's Conservation area. Clitheroe has a long history and therefore many fine examples of buildings from throughout history dating as far back as the 12th Century.

The council office building was purpose built in the late 1970's / early 1980's, the building was then extended in 1991.

Construction

The L shaped building is set out over four floors. The building is constructed of a steel portal frame with block and beam floors at each level. Cavity walls have been used with block inner leaf and stone outer leaf. Grey slate covers the multiple pitched roofs. The lower floor provides parking spaces and access through to a further carpark. A link corridor connects the offices to the council offices. Public access to the building is gained via Church Walk by means of stairs leading to the 1st floor and main entrance or an accessible access route on the ground floor. The Ground floor space is mainly used as service rooms and storage.

Proposed Alterations

It is proposed to install 121no. solar panels on the roofs of the council offices.

Aim

The aim of installing a Solar PV system is to reduce the amount of energy the council offices take from the grid. PV modules generate clean electrical power which will allow the Council to reduce the carbon footprint of the council offices, supporting the government's aims to reach carbon zero by 2050. A specialist report calculates that the solar PV system will provide the offices with a level of 20.9% self-sufficiency, avoiding 13,784kg/year CO2 emissions. The PV system is also expected to save £1,042,898 of public money over a 25year period, that would otherwise be spent on power taken from the grid.

Assessment of Impact

The anticipated impact of the proposed work is expected to be minimal. While there will be a subtle visual alteration to the appearance of the council roofs, the solar panels are dark in colour similar to the existing slate roof covering. The building is also set back from the town centre, so they will not impact the visual aesthetic of the ancient market town. This proposal poses very little aesthetic change from what currently exists.

Impact on wildlife

None