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The existing Sports Centre at the Huish Episcopi Academy in Langport, Somerset, is owned by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) and operated by Huish Leisure (HL) on behalf of the Huish Episcopi Academy (HEA) and provides valuable facilities to serve both the school and the local community. However, the facilities are in need of refurbishment in order to meet user expectations and to provide the required capacity.

Of these facilities, the existing pool and changing accommodation is in particular need of investment and SSDC are proposing to upgrade these in response to local demand.

Roberts Limbrick Ltd (RLL) have been appointed by SSDC to develop proposals to improve the pool facilities and this report has been produced to support their proposed application for funding from Sport England. RLL have been supported by Kirkham Board who have provided cost consultancy and MEP consultancy advice. Contact details are as follows:-

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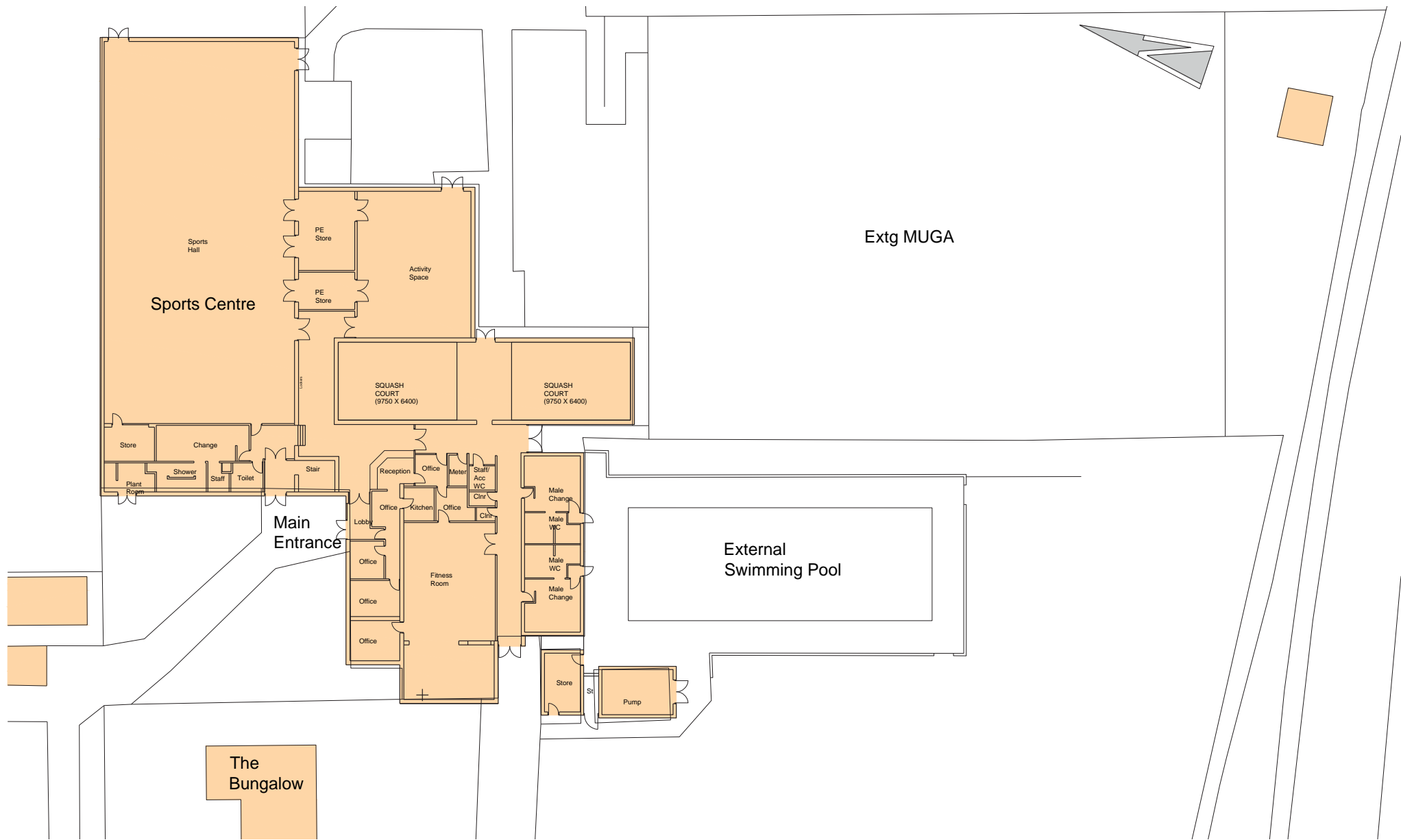
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The pool facilities at HEA, which form part of the larger sports facilities at the school, comprise an 8.5m x 25m outdoor pool, two segregated male and female changing rooms and a pool plant room. These facilities are well used during the summer months in the daytime, but the lack of enclosure limits the periods and times of use by the school and the local community, and the desire is for an enclosure that will permit year round, extended hours of use.

Additionally, the configuration of the changing rooms is not suitable for use by families and disabled users. The provision of unisex and accessible changing rooms and toilets will extend use of the facilities to the wider community.

Consultation has taken place with the client (SSDC) and the school operator (HL) in order to determine the detailed requirements. The brief is therefore to provide:-

- Enclosure to the pool to permit extended use throughout the day and year
- Enhanced changing facilities
- Spectator area to make provision for parents to watch swimming lessons
- Storage for pool equipment and teaching aids
- First aid facilities
- Associated building services equipment



Description of facilities

The enhanced pool facilities will comprise the following:-

Arrival

The entrance to the transformed pool facilities will be via the existing reception and circulation, which leads directly to the pool and associated changing areas.

Changing

Users of the pool will benefit from a combination of enhanced, high quality male and female group changing rooms, with a newly constructed unisex family and accessible changing area.

Segregated changing

The single sex changing areas will be reconfigured and fully refurbished to provide a changing space fitted with bench seating, toilets and showers. The provision of lockers within the space will allow the facilities to be used either as single sex segregated changing or as lockable group changing rooms. Sliding / lockable signage will allow the changing to be designated as male and female change, or as all male / all female, depending on demand.

Unisex changing

This new changing room will include a combination of family changing cubicles of different sizes, combined with accessible changing to suit those with disabilities. An accessible WC, lockers and showers will provide facilities for the users of this area.

Pool hall

The changing facilities lead directly to the newly enclosed pool hall. The enclosure will allow use throughout the year and allow extended hours of use throughout the week. The new enclosure will meet Building Regulation performance requirements for structures, heat loss and acoustics, to ensure low reverberation and good speech intelligibility. Pre-swim showers are provided on pool side and newly tiled pool surrounds are of sufficient capacity for up to 71 people to access the pool at any one time.

Doors out from the pool hall will lead to a paved surround and steps, leading to the external grassed area and, in combination with the proposed glazing, will maintain the 'Lido' feel.

Pool tank

This is to be refurbished with grout and sealants replaced. The base of the pool tank will be re-tiled and re-marked to create 4 lanes of the recommended 2.0m width. The existing ladder accesses to the pool will be enhanced through the provision of a new pool hoist, making access feasible for people with disabilities. The refurbished pool will allow use for lane swimming, swimming lessons for adults or children, use by people with disabilities, children's parties, etc. and as part of regular decathlon events.

Pool storage

Two new pool stores will be provided for storage of pool equipment. One will be used for teaching equipment, e.g. floats, water woggles, etc., with the second one storing larger equipment.

First aid

A small first aid room will provide facilities for treatment and storage of first aid supplies and training equipment. A couch, chair, cupboard and basin will be incorporated.

Spectators

Parents wishing to watch their children enjoying swimming lessons will be able to separately access the pool hall from the dry circulation. Tip-up stadia style seating will provide seating for up to 32 people, together with space for those in wheelchairs.

Pool water treatment plant

The existing plant will be retained and overhauled as necessary to maintain effective operation for pool water quality standards.

Other building services plant

The new pool hall enclosure and other enclosed spaces will be served by new roof mounted AHU plant. Other services will be extended to cover the newly enclosed and extended area. In addition, a new disabled call system will link back to reception.

Approach to building fabric

The proposals illustrate a conventional approach to the building enclosure. The new pool hall will be a steel framed structure, with a built up roof construction, with a standing seam roof on structural decking, perforated for acoustics. External walls will be of a cavity construction, with rendered and blockwork finishes to match the existing building. A new floor construction surrounding the pool will receive tiled finishes and drainage. A similar form of construction will be used for the construction of the changing room extension.

Alternative approach to building fabric

Options for the use of a proprietary pool enclosure have also been shown. This may be an alternative construction, which could have benefits in terms of economy of construction. If this is proven to be a viable alternative to conventional methods of construction, it is important that the method of construction will meet requirements for structural loads, heat loss, durability and acoustics. Preliminary discussions with Building Control have indicated that the enclosure will not need to meet the requirements of Approved Document Part L. However, any reduction in the standard of insulation will need to be closely balanced with potential increases in running costs that may result from the reduced standard and this will need to be carefully considered as the design progresses during the next stage, along with solutions to meet acoustic requirements.

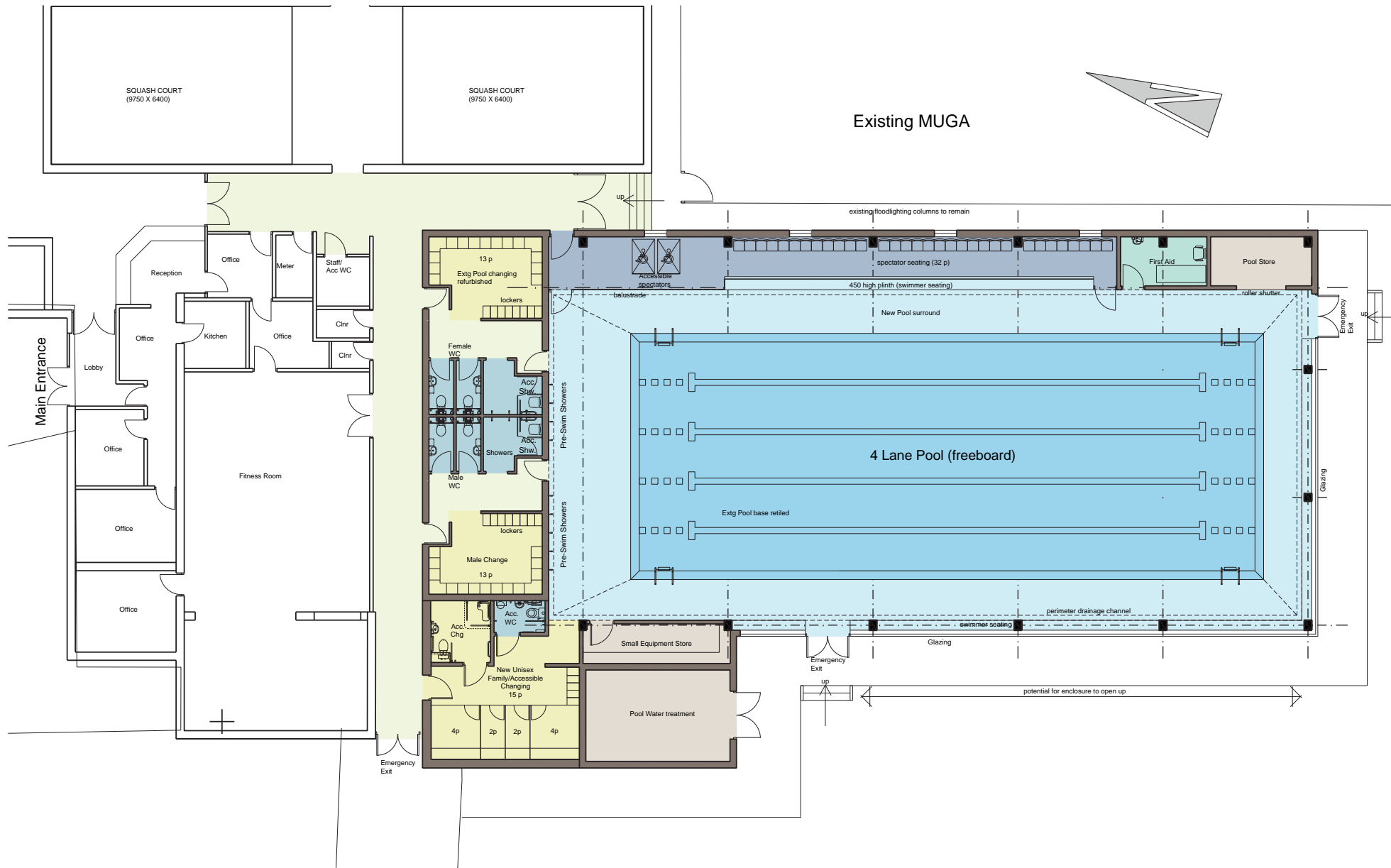
Sustainability

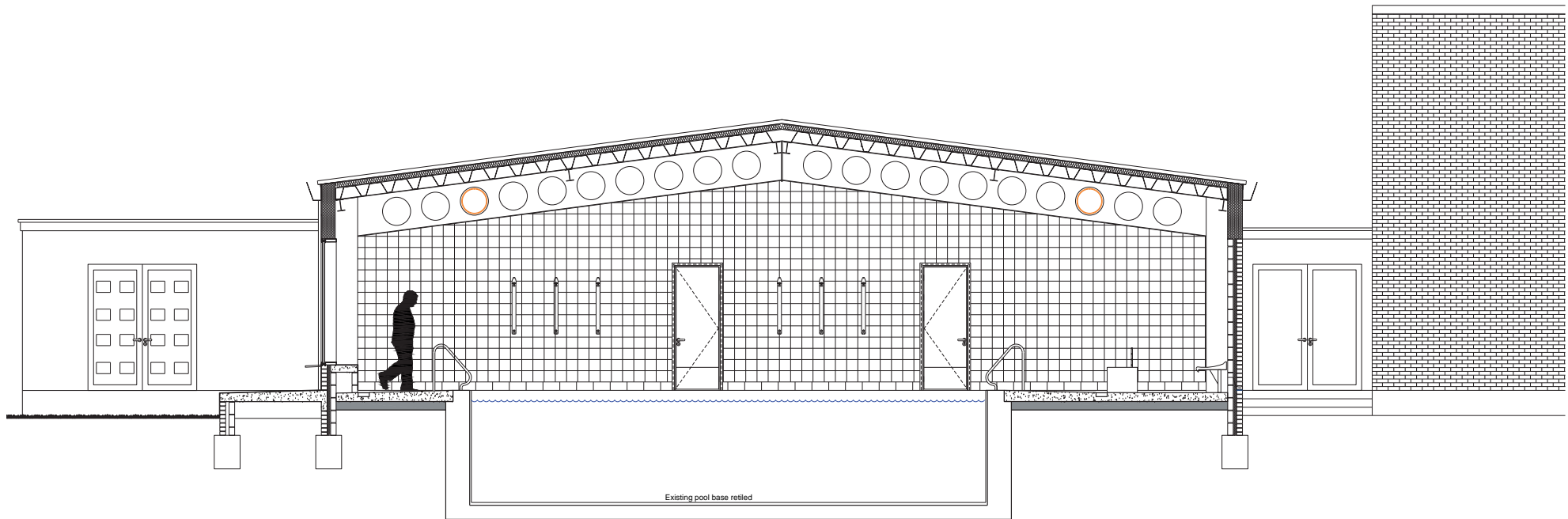
The facilities are designed to minimise energy use. They will benefit from extensive natural lighting to reduce reliance on artificial lighting and the enclosure will limit heat loss through the building fabric. In addition, the ventilation system will incorporate heat recovery, loss of water will be controlled by setting the air temperature min. 10C above the pool temperature and pool covers will reduce evaporation loss overnight, allowing a reduction in the pool hall ventilation rate.

The provision of the enclosure to the pool hall will provide extended use and income to support the running costs of the enhanced facilities. Requirements for renewables will be met by the provision of either PVs, solar hot water or micro CHP. New lighting will be LED for optimum efficiency. Sanitary appliances and showers will be on demand with low water usage fittings. Occupancy sensors will control lighting in secondary spaces such as pool stores and first aid room.

Accessibility

The reconfigures and new changing facilities will provide suitable access to the pool hall. The provision of accessible changing facilities and a pool hoist will allow improved access to the pool. The spectator facilities will include space for wheelchair users to the new pool.





Section A-A' (1:50)

