

Ref : GJB/187

13th February 2024

G Parry Consulting Limited
237 Victoria Road
St Budeaux
Plymouth, PL5 2DQ

For the attention of : Greg Parry Esq.

Dear Sir / Madam,

T-Level Projects - City College Plymouth
Structural inspection of internal walls

Bartlett Consulting Engineers have been commissioned by G Parry Consulting Limited to advise on structural issues relating to the refurbishment of the tower block at City College in Plymouth. Planned refurbishment of the second and third floors is intended with rearrangement of some of the existing internal walls. This structural inspection was to advise on the structural condition of the walls to be removed. A site visual inspection was carried out on 13th February 2024 to assess the structural considerations of the proposed alterations.

The main tower block at City College was built around 50 years ago. It consists of an in situ concrete frame with concrete flat slabs forming each floor level. There are concrete columns on each side and two rows of internal columns, one each side of the central corridor. There are solid structural cores at each end of the building forming the stairwells and lift shaft. The majority of the walls on the second and third floors are formed with blockwork. Inside the rooms the walls extend up to the underside of the slab above and are plastered. In the corridor this plaster stops above the suspended ceiling and the blockwork can be inspected at high level. It is clear that the walls were built up to the underside of the slab and infilled with mortar and brick slips to close the gap at the top. This is a clear indication that the walls are not loadbearing.

Where new openings or wider openings are to be formed in existing walls these can be supported with standard concrete lintels. I would suggest 140x100 prestressed concrete lintels by Stressline or similar. These lintels will only be taking load from the few courses of blockwork above the door opening. This blockwork will either need to be needled with Strongboys or similar, or else removed and rebuilt afterwards.

In conclusion, the internal walls shown on the refurbishment drawings to be removed are not structural and can be removed. Existing columns are not to be damaged or removed.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Bartlett BSc CEng MICE
BARTLETT Consulting Engineers