Energy Central Learning Hub

Public Consultation

Welcome

This consultation event provides an update on the proposals by Northumberland Council for a new Energy Central Learning Hub (ECLH) at Quay Road, Blyth in partnership with Port of Blyth, Northumberland Council, Energy Central and the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult.

The ECLH will be a new build industrial training, education and skills facility, located at the Port of Blyth, at the heart of a major clean energy industrial cluster. It will be built on a brownfield site, adjacent to and connected to the existing Port Training services facility, creating 2396 sqm of new learning and skills space. The proposed facility will create new and exciting opportunities for residents and learners to become involved with the employment and skills growth occuring in the clean energy sector in and around Blyth.

What facilities are included in the proposed building?
The hub will provide a state-of-the-art facility that will transform the Clean energy training, education and skills offer in the area. It will incorporate-

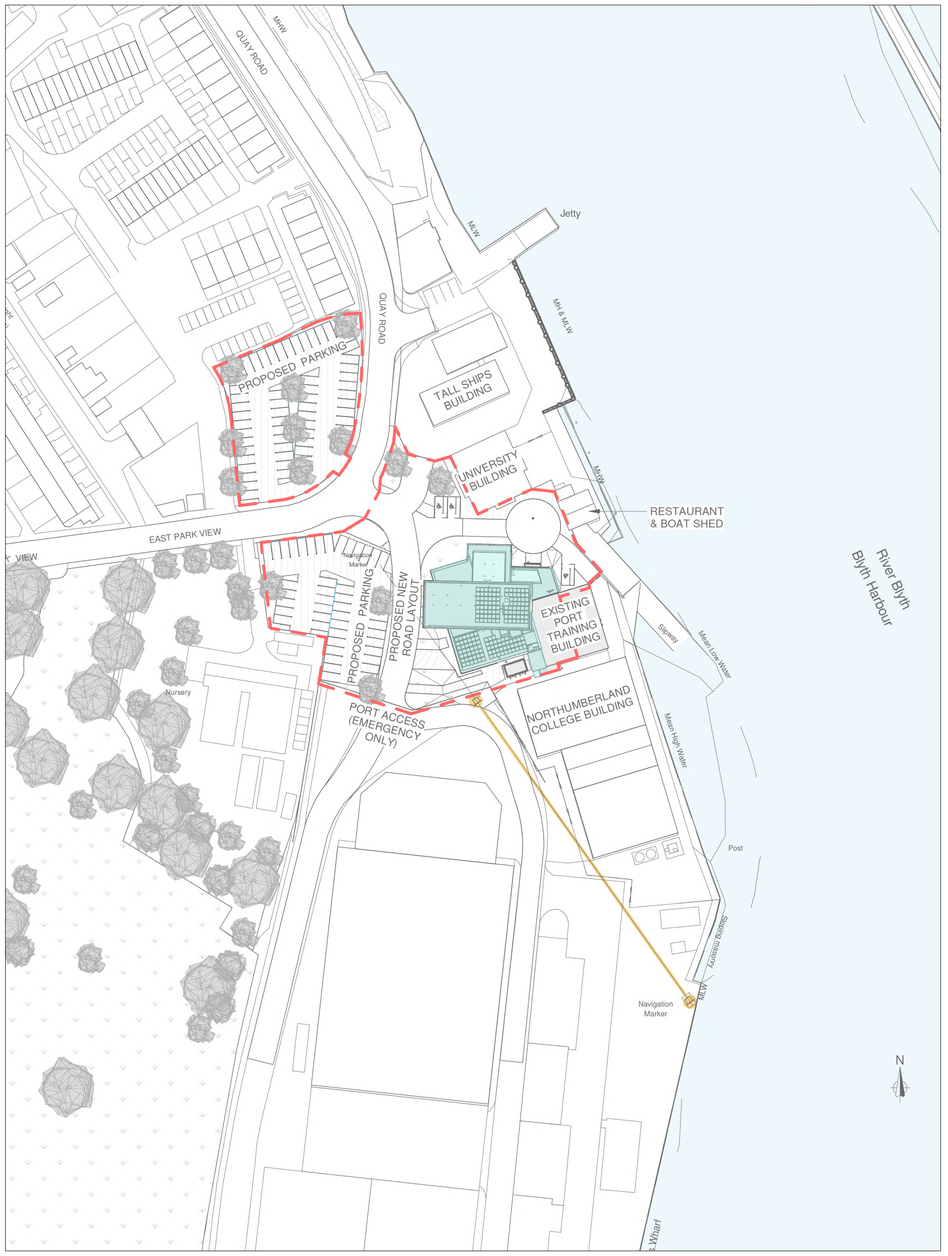
- Dedicated space for the provision of vocational training and skills for young people and courses to enable the existing workforce to update/ adapt their current skills to meet the needs of clean energy employers
- Specialist electrical and mechanical training facilities alongside a digital skills training suite
- STEM@Energy Central to raise awareness of and engagement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) based careers and deliver STEM activities and education programmes
- Clean energy exhibition visitor space to showcase clean energy industries and jobs to residents of Blyth and the locality
- Conferencing, events space and a lecture theatre to encourage collaboration between employers, education institutions and research

Benefits
This exciting development is aimed at providing a showcase for the cutting-edge clean energy sector in Blyth, with opportunities for both community and industry for the benefit of the wider town. It will support Northumberland Council and its Energy Central partners to provide the training and skills needed by industry in the area which will, in turn, encourage more businesses to invest in the area. The Energy Central Learning Hub will create-

- A landmark building to act as a public face to the Port and showcase Energy Central initiative
- A new visitor facility will lead to increased public knowledge and participation in renewable energy sector in the local area
- A new facility will create increased provision for tourists. This will enhance Blyth's tourism offer, meaning consequent benefits for the local economy
- Increased training capacity and range to attract new partners and improve local training and skills availability for employers
- STEM teaching facilities to provide integration with local schools and colleges across a full age range
- A conference centre, to provide new facilities for business without having to go outside of the town and to attract new ones

What happens next?
A planning application is due to be submitted in March 2022. Construction of the new facility is targeted to commence in Summer 2022, with opening planned for Autumn 2023.

In the meantime, the project team are keen to hear your views. Any comments will be carefully considered before the proposals are finalised for the planning application. Please complete a feedback form.



SITE LOCATION

Energy Central Learning Hub

Public Consultation

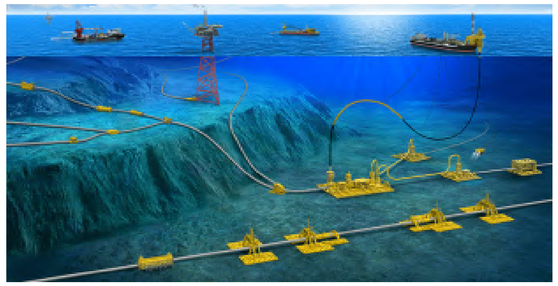
Local Context

Local & Strategic Context
Energy Central is a strategic partnership between Northumberland Council, The Port of Blyth, Advance Northumberland and ORE Catapult to provide leading facilities for off-shore, deep water and clean energy industries.
Building on the strength of the local skills base, combined with the existing port infrastructure and local specialist supply chains, Energy Central looks to provide an opportunity for businesses to invest in the Blyth local area and is involved in projects consisting of over 200Ha of development.

While Energy Central is driving today's clean energy agenda in the region, Blyth has an established history with energy generation. Starting with local coal fired power stations, which ran from the late 1950s to the 1990s, from the early 2000s Blyth has became heavily involved in clean enegry generation and the promotion a low carbon economy. The culmination of which is the current Energy Central scheme. In addition to the prominent local wind farm schemes, the Port also operates as a major handler of components destined for various other off-shore and land based clean energy developments

EXISTING SITE PHOTO

AERIAL IMAGE OF PORT OF



ENERGY CENTRAL CONTEXT IMAGES

NORR

Energy Central Learning Hub

Public Consultation

Proposals

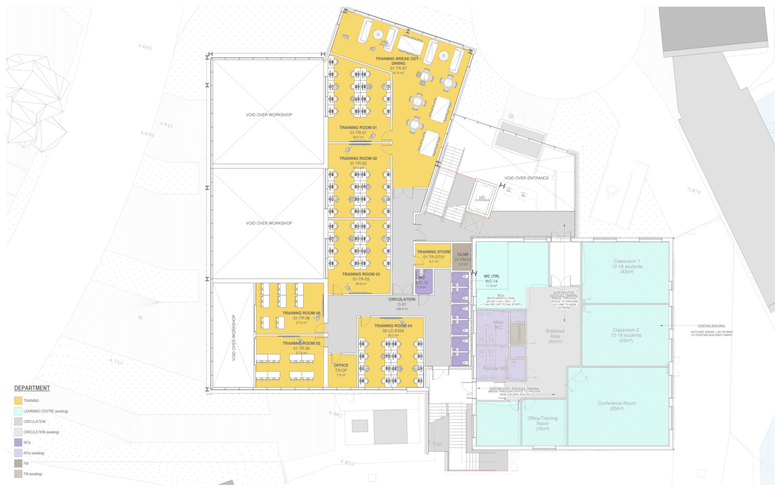
The main aspiration of this new building is to create a new, public facing focal point for Energy Central, with a visitor experience to demonstrate the development, the equipment and the processes involved as parts of the initiative. This will give the opportunity for the clean energy industry to fully showcase to the general public, and wider organisations, the level of innovation and scale of operation of the clean energy sector in Blyth.
It is also envisaged that this building could form the first phase of an Energy Central Campus, progressing with a number of proposed public, education and production facilities integrated across the local area from the port to the town centre.

The proposal is for a 4 storey mixed function building to the north entrance to the Port on Quay Road. The building will connect to the existing Port Services Training Building and will act as a public facing gateway building to the Port from town.
To the north east a new entrance atrium will be formed, this will be open and inviting and combine access to the new building and existing too. This will look out over an external landscaped area which will serve the entrances for the new build, the existing Caboose restaurant and Newcastle University building to create a more integrated approach to the wider site.

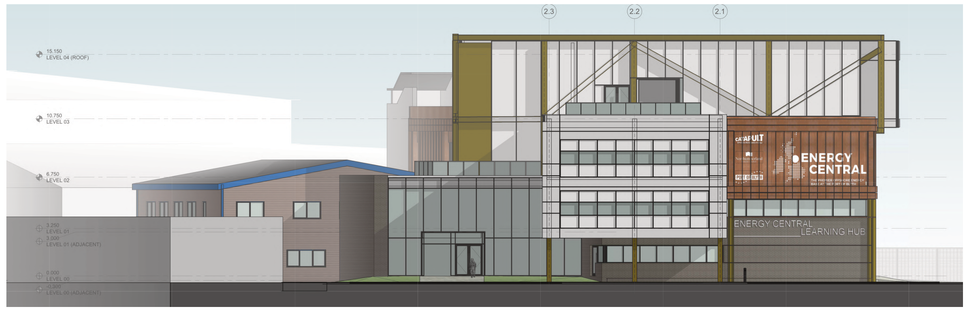
Ground floor will be comprised of three workshops to the west to allow vehicle and equipment access from the road. Overlooking these at first floor will be a number of training rooms. These spaces will be used for presentation and desk based learning related to the workshop activities. This level will also link through the existing building to make use of the current training rooms and breakout areas.

PROPOSED VISUAL OF BUILDING

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION

PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION

Energy Central Learning Hub

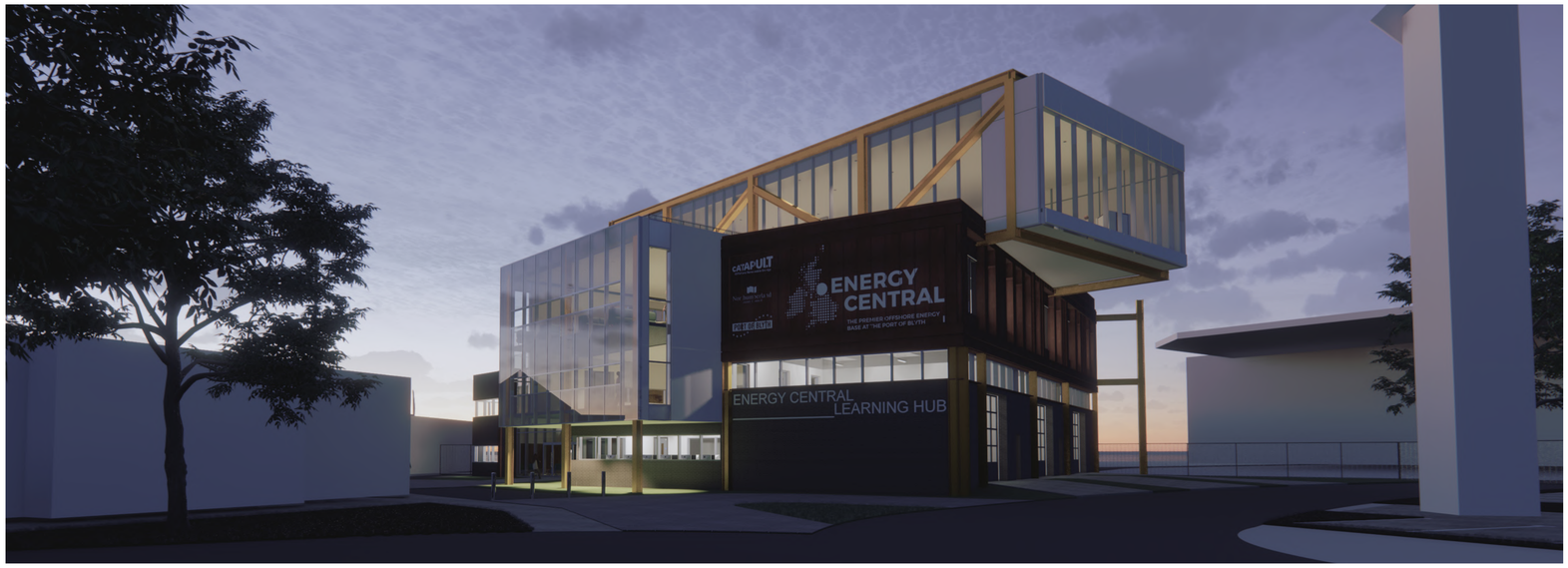
Public Consultation

Proposals

On second floor a STEM learning facility will be created comprising of three large class rooms and a break out / dining area to cater for school trips on full day visits. In addition to this the spaces have been designed with folding room dividers so the space can be opened out and used as a Conference Facility. This use will provide a presentation space for 250 people, along with social and dining.

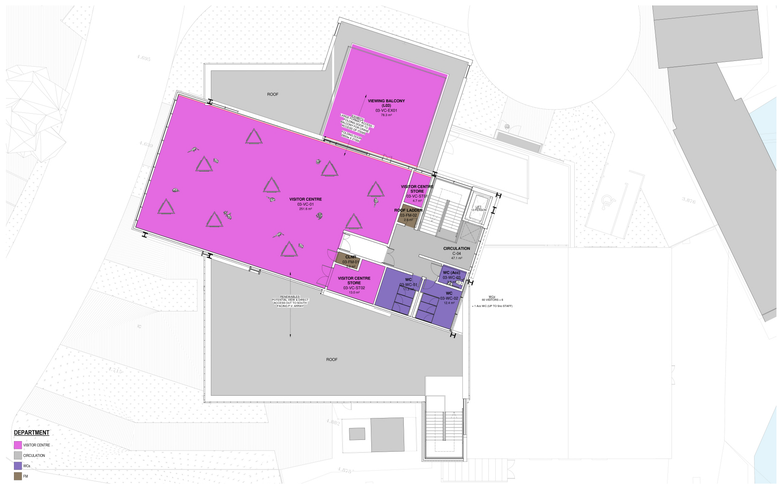
As visitors circulate up through the building, the stair and lift are designed to give views out over the river and sea to the north and east, using the surrounding industries and wind farm as part of the visitor showcase, even before they arrive in the visitor centre. On the top floor the Visitor Centre is designed to be the key public space. It is intended that the space will house exhibitions to showcase the clean energy innovation in the area, however the space will also be designed to connect back to the local context as a wider showcase, with a viewing terrace with views over the river and sea activities, and a picture frame window to the north west looking back towards the park and town centre.

In addition to the new building, parking areas are also planned as part of the site development. This will move parking to the north and west areas of the site, creating a much clearer and visually appealing approach off Quay Road to the new building and the existing restaurant and University buildings.



PROPOSED VISUAL OF BUILDING

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

VISUAL OF TRAINING SUITE

VISUAL OF ENTRANCE AREA

VISUAL OF ENTRANCE AREA

VISUAL OF EXHIBITION AREA

NORR