



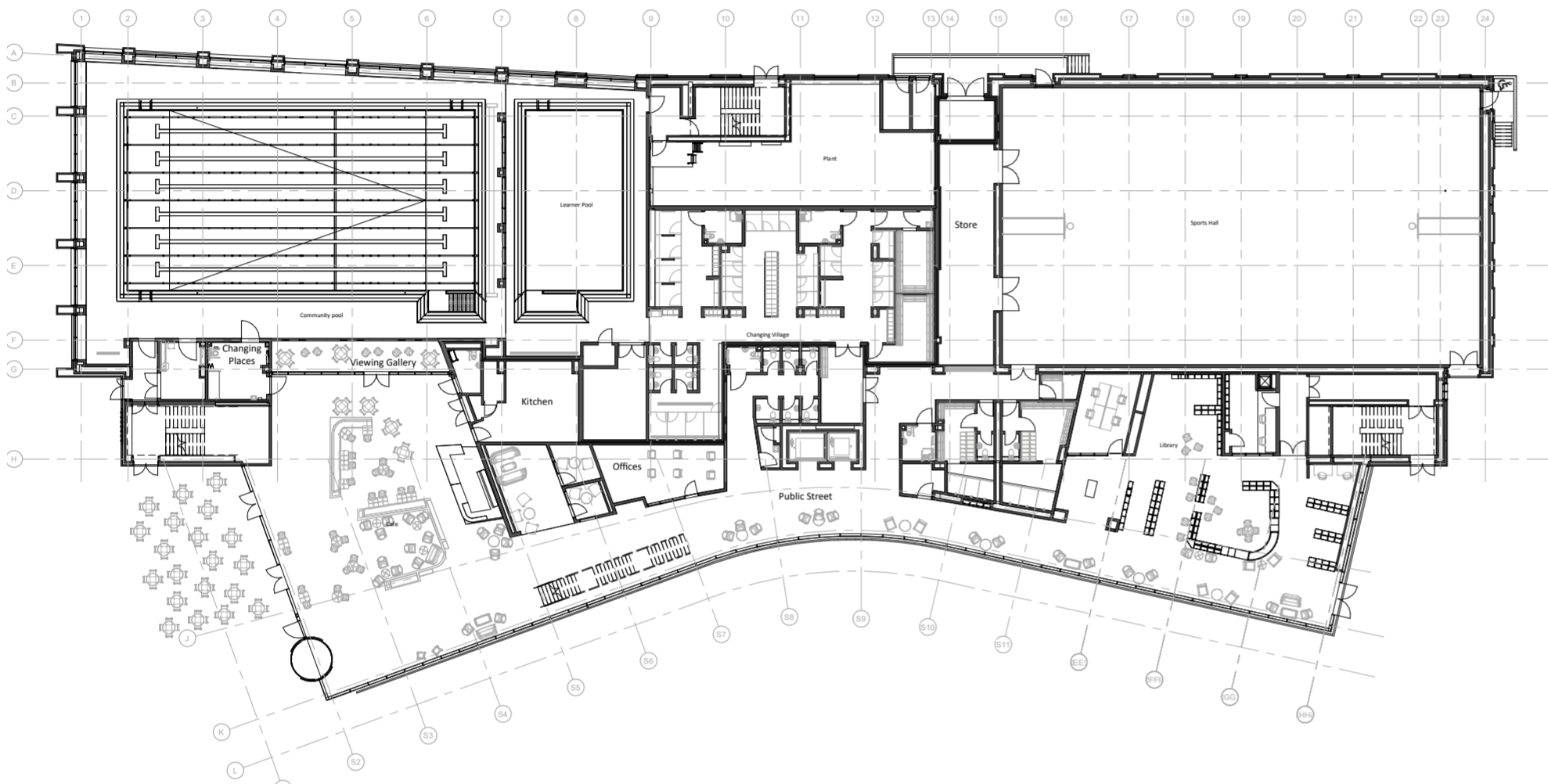
Location

The site is located on land to the South of Gas House Lane, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1TA. The town centre location is extremely well connected to local public transport links and access to local car parking across the town centre. The proposals include for the remodelling of the existing Terrace Car Park with a slight increase in the provision of on street parking to Gas House Lane. A new dedicated staff car park has been provided to the east of the new building. Coach drop off is via a designated bay on Gas House Lane to the North.

Concept

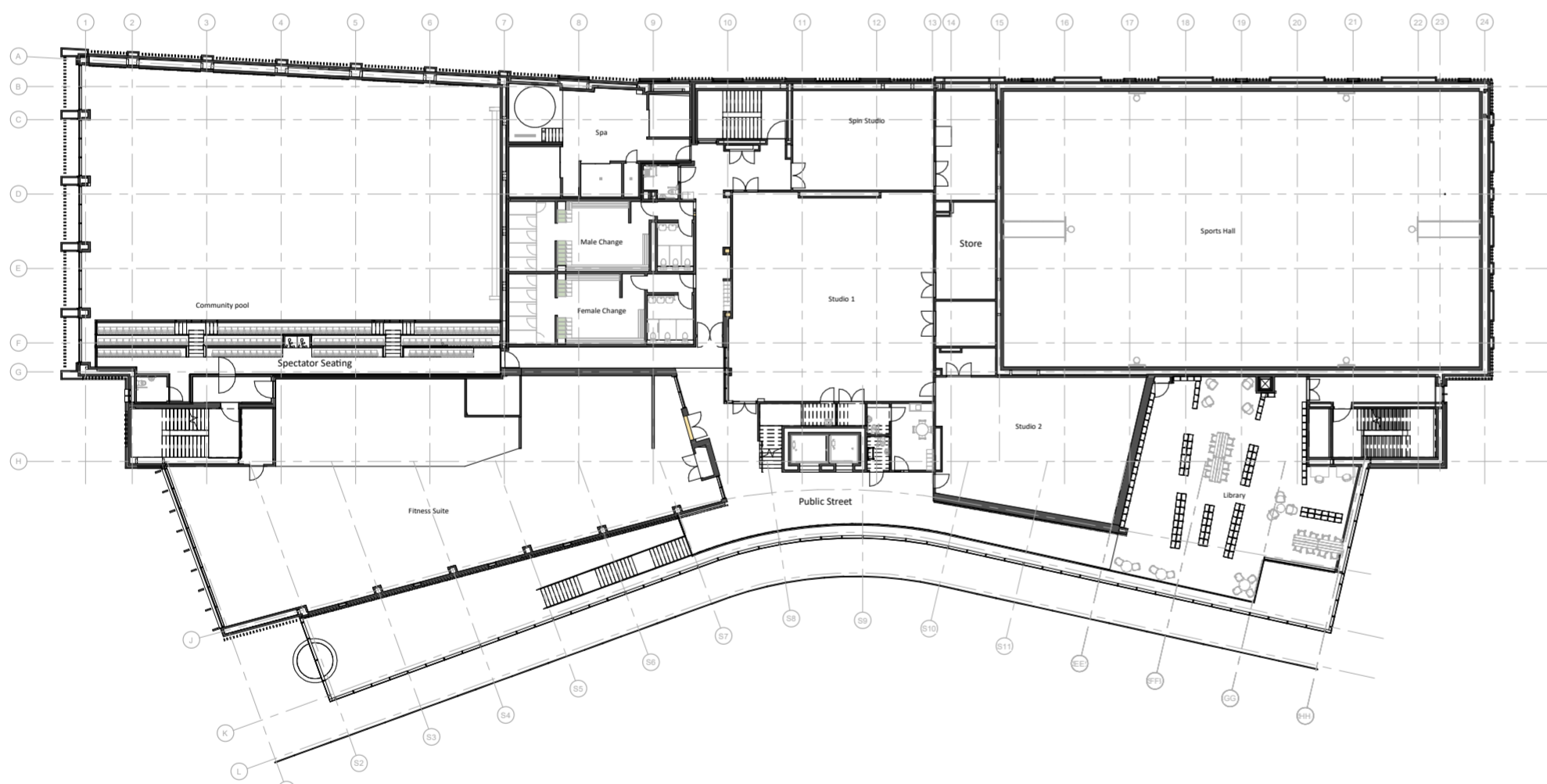
The brief requirements established a floor area of circa 5,800sqm, creating a mass virtually double in size of the existing Riverside Leisure Centre on a substantially restricted site in terms developable footprint. It was therefore necessary to arrange the built form over 3 floors, with the top floor set back from the prominent elevations to minimise the overall height and mass.

The Strategic Moves of 'layering' and 'elevational gradation' allow the mass to be broken down into a series of vertical elements which respond to the urban context to the north and the riverside context to the south. The western elevation which faces the town centre approach can be clearly identified as a four elements each with a distinctive character in terms of form and materiality. Robust masonry forms address the urban context to the left, which are incrementally broken down to articulate a substantially transparent volume to the riverside elevation to the right (see below)



Level 0

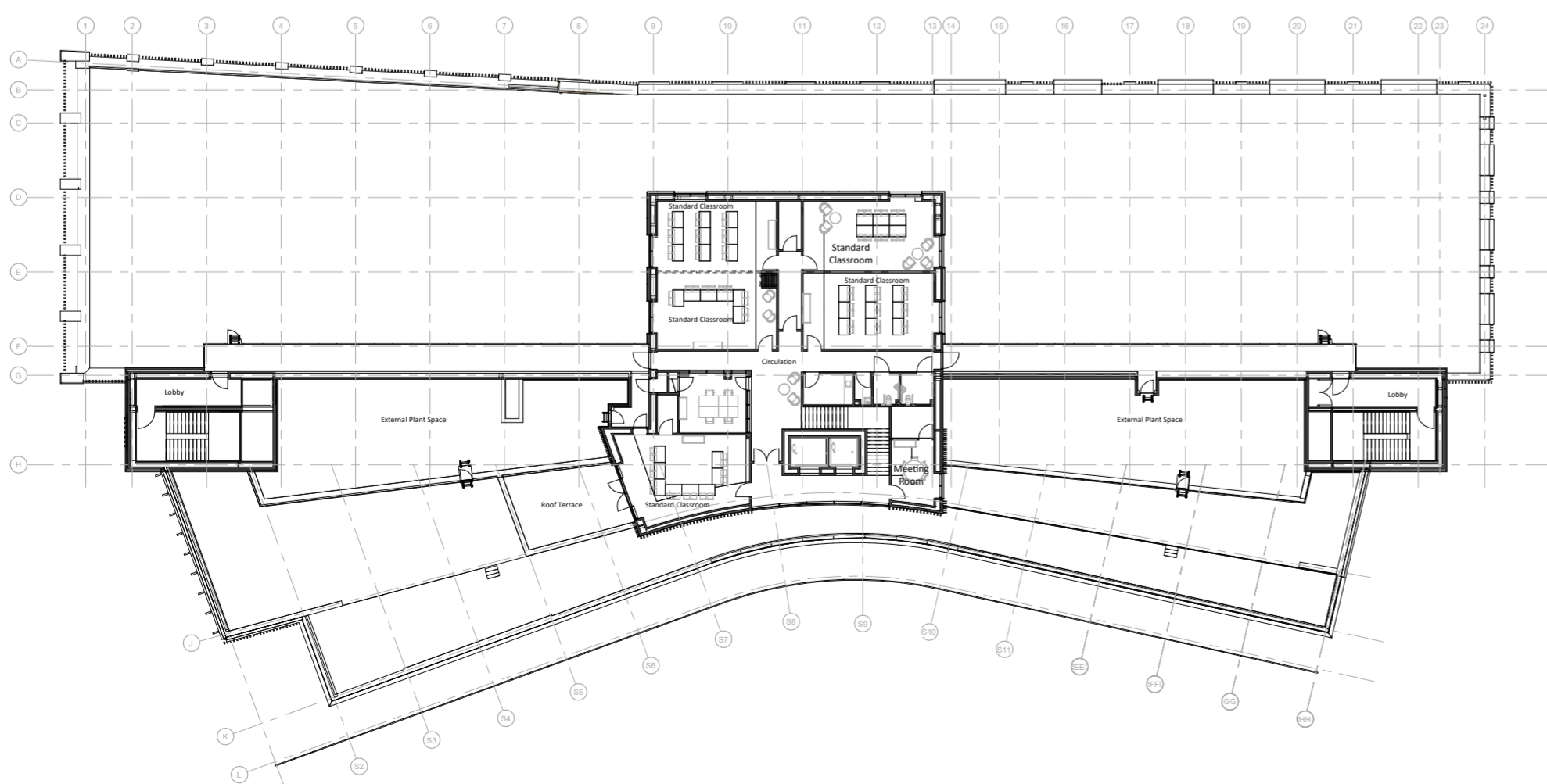
The main entrance of the building is located to the west side of the building via a rising boulevard. On entry to the buildings users can travel the length of the building along the southern public street, with each space branching off to the north. This provides clear sightlines to the end of the street and comforting perspectives of the external landscaping towards the Wansbeck river.



Level 1

First Floor contains the Fitness suite, Spa, Studios, Spectator Seating and additional floor to the library. User can arrive on this floor plate via the main circulation Stair within the Public street, visible from the entrance, the lifts or western library stair. The positioning of the stairs offer a circular route for users who wish to explore the building's services in an easy flow.

For swimmers who intend to use both the pools and spa, a stair centred in the north of the building allows for an expedient route between ground floor wet space and 1st floor spa zone.



Level 2

Second Floor provides the Adult Learning Services Hub. Accessed via the main circulation stair, followed by the central southern stair wrapping the lift core. For maximum inclusivity, the lift core serves Level 2 also.

A multitude of classroom sizes, provides flexibility in class sizes and offers peaceful views over all directions of Morpeth, further enhanced by a roof terrace.



Building Data

Client:	Northumberland County Council
Project Value:	£21 Million
EPC:	A
Architect:	GT3 Architects
M&E Consultants:	Desco
Structural Consultants:	Fairhurst
Landscape Consultant:	Oobe
Pool Specialist:	FT Leisure
Spa Specialist:	Dale
Main Contractor:	Willmott Dixon
Installer:	Leybourne Urwin
Structure:	Finley Structures
Curtain Walling:	Hadrian Architectural Glazing
Precast Concrete:	Lynx
Glazed Partitions:	Sig Distribution
Flooring:	SpecTile, Altro, Desso and Reflex Sports
Ceilings:	Rockfon, Siniat, British Gypsum
Acoustic Panelling:	LSA
Cladding Installer:	M&C Roofing
Veil Design & Install:	Ash & Lacy
Composite Panel:	Eurobond
Accoya Timber Fins:	James Latham
Tiling Installer:	Plunkett Tiling Contractors
Brickwork Installer:	Shaws Construction Management
Flooding Barrier:	FloodStop
Completion:	Spring 2023



Legacy

The Morpeth Sports and Leisure centre has left a memorable mark on the local community, setting a precedent for how architectural design can foster inclusivity, diversity, and community engagement. Completed in April 2023, the centre's legacy is defined by its innovative co-location of multiple essential services within a single, accessible facility. This design approach has not only optimised resource use but has also created a vibrant, multifaceted space that brings people together.

The increased foot traffic and shared spaces have fostered organic interactions, breaking down social barriers and promoting a sense of unity.

"The interactive and engaging design process led by GT3 brought together the various stakeholders and user groups well, capturing and developing key object which was critical to the success of the project" – Client

"I wanted to congratulate you on the design of the disabled swim facilities in the new Morpeth leisure centre". – Customer

The centre has not only met immediate community needs but has also laid the groundwork for long-term social cohesion and resilience. Its legacy is reflected in the enhanced quality of life for residents and the strengthened social fabric of the community.

