The University of Central Lancashire’s Masterplan project takes another step forward after the planning application for the flagship Student Centre and Civic Square project was submitted.

Designed by Hawkins\Brown following an international RIBA competition, the proposed Student Centre and Civic Square will be the focal point of the Masterplan.

The Student Centre, which has targeted a BREEAM (environmental quality) rating of ‘excellent’, will be 7,304 sqm providing a new reception area, informal learning spaces and a student wellbeing support centre.

Designed as an iconic gateway to the City, the Civic Square will span 5,220 sqm providing flexible and adaptable spaces for a wide range of community, public, business and student uses.

The project’s planning application also details plans to make improvements to the public realm in the Adelphi Quarter.

David Taylor, Chairman of the Board at UCLan, said: “Our ambition has been to deliver a centre of learning where people of all interests and backgrounds can feel at ease, comfortable in their physical surroundings and supported in their academic, social and business aspirations.

“We also wanted a landmark building and a new Civic Square that will transform the existing Campus and the City of Preston, and provide a new heart for UCLan. The new Student Centre will be welcoming, functional, focal point for all front line student, visitor and staff enquiries. It will also be an important public asset that embraces the city scale and positively contributes to the ongoing regeneration of Preston.”

Decision on the planning application is expected at a Preston City Council meeting during late 2017/early 2018.

UCLan has completed an extensive consultation exercise with local residents, businesses, and University staff and students to gather views on the proposed Student Centre and public realm improvements.

Just some of the ways your views are helping to shape plans...

You said: “Courtesy crossings need be clearer and more ‘zebra-like’”

Our response: Crossing points are being designed with contrasting bands to create the zebra approach as suggested.

You said: “Greater contrast between the kerb and the road is required, particularly important for those with visual impairments”

Our response: We are proposing to increase kerb height and are maximising contrast at the kerbs by testing a number of colours and textures.

You said: “I’m worried about the flow of traffic”

Our response: Generally the proposed street concept performs well. Minor design changes have been tested and those we recommend are included in the evolving design.

While the design has to consider a significant amount of end user requirements, the University is committed to making this scheme accessible for all.
Welcome

As the new academic year gets underway, I’d like to begin by wishing a warm welcome to new students who have joined us for courses beginning in autumn, all our returning students, and to any students arriving in Preston on the study abroad programme.

You’ve joined us at an exciting time, with our Campus transformation well underway. Our Social Spaces are nearing completion, and construction has commenced on our state-of-the-art Engineering Innovation Centre.

You may also have noticed that work has begun to create our Oasis centre, a place where students can practice their faith, spirituality and beliefs in a relaxed environment, which is due for completion in spring 2018.

The centrepiece of our exciting Masterplan will be the new £60 million Student Centre and Civic Square, and we’re pleased not only to have submitted our planning application, but also to have taken steps to ensure our plans reflect feedback from the various individuals and user groups we have been engaging with. The information gained through the consultation process has been used to develop the design and a significant number of suggestions have been accommodated.

With so much to look forward to in the times ahead, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the seventh edition of Campus Vision 2020; the first for the academic year 2017-2018.

PROFESSOR MIKE THOMAS
VICE CHANCELLOR

WORK BEGINS ON £30 MILLION-PLUS ENGINEERING INNOVATION CENTRE

Construction of the £30 million-plus Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC), a major milestone within the £200 million Campus Masterplan, is underway.

The state-of-the-art facility, which will establish UCLan as a leader in engineering innovation, is anticipated to produce an increase of 500 locally trained graduates per year in areas including aerospace, mechanical and energy technologies and engineering.

Staff, students and companies within the region will have access to top-of-the-range equipment including flight simulators, Formula One cars and specialist electronic labs, which will allow students to work on live, real-world projects.

Manchester-based BAM Construction is on site delivering the scheme, which is due for completion in 2019.

SimpsonHaugh has led on the design of the facility in collaboration with Reiach and Hall Architects. BDP, which was founded in Preston, is providing engineering expertise, while AA Projects is providing project management, employer’s agent, quantity surveying and construction design and management services.

Michael Ahern, Chief Operating Officer at UCLan, said: ‘The start of work on site marks another exciting milestone for our Campus Masterplan and the creation of a powerful hub for developing and nurturing skills.’

‘The EIC will address the skills deficit in engineering specialists in Lancashire and nationally. A skilled engineering workforce is essential for the economy and the benefit of the wider society.

‘It has an important part to play, not just in confirming Lancashire’s role as a national centre for advanced manufacturing, but in maintaining the UK’s international leadership in engineering and innovation.”

Simon Atkinson, Project Manager for BAM, added: “We are thrilled to have started construction of such an exciting building for UCLan and the first project in the Masterplan, that will transform the Campus and the City of Preston.

“This is our 34th university project in the north west, so our team understands the importance of both minimising disruption and engaging staff, students and the local community in the project as much as possible.”

The EIC is an integrated teaching and research space which will deliver a range of key objectives, including ensuring that local skills reflect social and economic needs and increasing the number of females in engineering careers.

Identified as a signature project within Lancashire’s Strategic Economic Plan, the EIC has secured £10.5 million via the Lancashire Enterprise Partnerships’ Growth Deal with the Government. The new facility has also received £5.8 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and £5 million from HEFCE’s STEM Capital Fund.

THE START OF WORK ON SITE MARKS ANOTHER EXCITING MILESTONE FOR OUR CAMPUS MASTERPLAN AND THE CREATION OF A POWERFUL HUB FOR DEVELOPING AND NURTURING SKILLS.”

WWW.UCLAN.AC.UK/MASTERPLAN UCLANMASTERPLAN@UCLAN.AC.UK
Staff, students and industry partners of the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) have been depicted on hoardings surrounding the site of the new £30 million-plus Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC), in what is thought to be a first at a UK university.

Sixty people volunteered to have life-sized photographs of themselves displayed across the 187 metre hoardings alongside images of the equipment they will be using, from flight simulators to Formula Ford racing cars.

UCLan photography graduate Ian Clegg took the images, assisted by current students from the MA and BA photography courses.

Spotlight on:
BAM Construction, committed to making a positive impact on the local community

Main contractor BAM Construction, currently on site building the Engineering Innovation Centre (EIC), is committed to the use of local supply chairs on all its projects to reinvest project spend back into local communities.

In the lead up to starting work on the EIC, the north west based company wanted to further grow its Preston supply chain, encourage local companies to tender for work on the project and connect with local training and employment organisations. It teamed up with the Central Lancashire Construction Skills Hub, made up of Preston’s College, Preston City Council, South Ribble Council, Chorley Council and UCLan, to present upcoming opportunities on the project and meet local supply chain companies, who were invited to events at Preston’s College back in 2016 and earlier this year.

So far it has also hosted two work experience placements, including UCLan BA (Hons) Interior Design student Ben Hunter, from Preston, who spent time with their Design Manager Peter Stothers, (pictured) at the regional office before the project started on site.

More about BAM can be found at www.bam.co.uk and progress of the project can be followed on the UCLan EIC BAM Facebook page.
UCLAN MASTERPLAN VISION IS BROUGHT TO LIFE

UCLAN has unveiled a new CGI representation of how its £200 million Masterplan will look. Plans showing how the Campus will be transformed over the next three years have been brought to life digitally in a flythrough video.

Chief Operating Officer Michael Ahern said: “Even though construction work is now underway it can still be difficult to visualise the finished scheme, so it’s exciting to see our fantastic vision brought to life.

‘Because this new film is based on detailed architects’ plans, it offers a much more realistic view of what people can expect from our unified, sustainable and welcoming Campus of the future.

“We also decided to include a scene at night time, providing a glimpse of the different possibilities for events that will further bring the City and the University together.

“We will continue to work very hard with our partners at Lancashire County Council, Preston City Council and the local community to ensure we create a legacy, which as well as producing a world-class Campus, helps to create jobs, kick-starts regeneration and attracts inward investment into the City.”

THE FLYTHROUGH VIDEO CAN BE VIEWED AT HTTPS://YOUTUBE/1JC6IVJJSME

MULTI-FAITH CENTRE BUILD GETS UNDERWAY

UC Lan staff and students will soon be able to reflect, pray and socialise together at a new £1 million purpose-built multi-faith centre, due for completion in spring 2018.

Construction of the bespoke building, which has been designed in consultation with students and the Students’ Union, is already underway and will involve an extension to the current Moss building.

The centre, known as Oasis, will include a dedicated Muslim prayer room with male and female ablution areas, a library for use by all faiths groups, a chapel for Christian worship, and a dedicated room for quiet reflection.

There will also be space for counselling, meetings and social gatherings, including a relaxing roof garden.

Sana Iqbal, Students’ Union President, said: “The Students’ Union has worked alongside the University to ensure that the Oasis Centre will be a place for students to practice their faith, spirituality and beliefs in a relaxed environment. The centre will act as a hub for students of all faith and those of none to encourage community cohesion and I am very proud to have been part of the team driving this project forward.”

Chaplain Andrew Clitherow added: “With a better building and facilities, we are looking forward to offering a much wider variety of activities for those of all faiths and none through the chaplaincy. These will include faith sharing events, discussion groups, led meditations, spirituality and chill-out sessions to mention just a few.

“We hope that students and staff will find Oasis to be a haven of peace in a busy world where they can take time out and reflect on how things are going.”

THE STUDENTS’ UNION HAS WORKED ALONGSIDE THE UNIVERSITY TO ENSURE THAT THE OASIS CENTRE WILL BE A PLACE FOR STUDENTS TO PRACTICE THEIR FAITH, SPIRITUALITY AND BELIEFS IN A RELAXED ENVIRONMENT.”