Victoria House, Winchester Completion Date October 2015 Contract Value £4.1m **Client** Winchester City Council

Architecture PLB were selected following an invited competition, to design and deliver this new residential block in central Winchester.

This project is for the renewal of some of Winchester City Council's own housing, replacing outmoded sheltered bedsit accommodation with modern 'downsizer' flats and shared equity flats for those starting on the property ladder. The development will comprise a total of 27 units, each with dedicated underground parking and a quiet, communal open space to the rear.

Located in the Hyde conservation area, the site is in a dense urban neighbourhood presenting numerous challenges to the design and construction process. The design requires a sensitive response to the surrounding Victorian properties, particularly with regards to the rightsof-light issues and complex levels across the site and the basement car park.

We have undertaken multiple consultations with residents and prospective users, in order to supplement the briefing process. We attended 'downsizer' focus groups so that we might better understand their needs, and to provide units that were functional and attractive for this

growing residential sector. Good accessibility, car parking, plentiful storage, excellent daylighting and balconies are all provided to compensate for the move from larger family units to City apartment living.

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⁰² Proposed elevation to maximise natural daylight for residents and neighbouring buildings.





⁰³ Street level view showing material selection and facade treatment.