



## HMP Altcourse, Fazakerley

### THE TASK:

The prison is sited some 4 miles north east of Liverpool City Centre in the suburb of Fazakerley. HMP Altcourse has been designed to accommodate 600 prisoners both sentenced and remand.

A dual campus layout has been developed since this was considered to offer the greater regime flexibility. There are 6 two-storey house blocks (three within each campus). House blocks consist of paired 50 man living units arranged either side of a central support services core.

House blocks have been designed and constructed on a modular basis using pre-cast concrete components. This has allowed for a fast-track construction programme whilst ensuring a quality product able to resist prisoner abuse.

The design of the prison is inherently flexible; there is the potential to overcrowd by 50% without compromise of regime while essentially it has only required upgrading of CCTV facilities to allow the prison to accept prisoners of the highest risk. In a recent report the Chief Inspector of Prisons Sir David Ramsbotham described Altcourse as a “strong candidate for the best prison we have seen” and also stated that the prison should be “considered as a jewel in the crown of the Prison Service”

The project was the first prison contract to be awarded in the UK on a Design, Construct, Manage and Finance (DCMF) basis. TPS undertook the design as a part of a Group 4/ Tarmac joint venture formed to secure the 25 year contract.

The project was completed in 1996. As a testament to the inherent flexibility built into the design the prison now accommodates some 1,000 prisoners. In 2005 TPS were commissioned to design a further 180-man living unit together with ancillary support accommodation. Work commenced on site in April 2006.

### CLIENT:

HM Prison Service

### SERVICES:

Full multi-discipline design

### VALUE:

£70m

### TYPE:

Law and order