4.3 Civic Function

The 'Heart' and Atria



View - Atrium 1, looking down into basement office space









Office atria examples

Sources (top down):
Paul de Ruiter Architects, Polak Building https://architizer.com/idea/1566239/,www.archdaily.com/782555/

31 West 27th Street https://www.dezeen.com/2019/03/12/fogarty-finger-architecture-new-york-office/

4.3 Civic Function

Unlocking the basement for use

Activation of the basement

The removal of the existing lid to the basement lightwells has enabled full height atria to be created. These atria are the key to unlocking the vast potential of the underused and undervalued basement. The atria allow light and ventilation to penetrate below ground to create usable accommodation. However, the existing arrangement of spaces within the basement is not conducive to a flexible and appropriate use for viable accommodation, therefore requiring alteration including to some of the original spaces.

The Strong Room

The basement is largely considered of lower significance than the upper floors of the building in heritage terms. However, there are a number of more significant areas which merit further consideration.

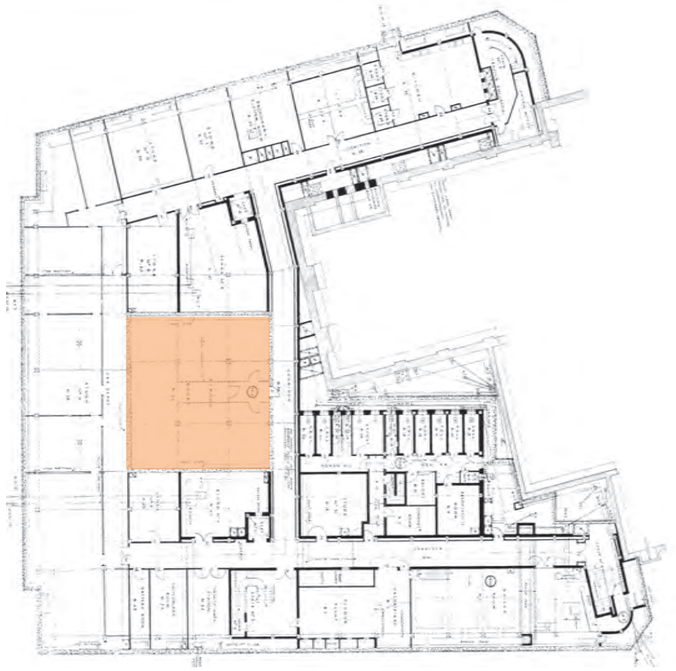
The original strong room which served the Borough Treasurer above still exists with steel grillage screens and principal strong room door intact. This is a distinctive component of the building and forms an historic narrative to the original basement usage. It is currently utilized as storage space.

Our proposals have developed in iterations with reference to comments from Historic England in order to improve legibility of the original room in plan form and retain more significant features.

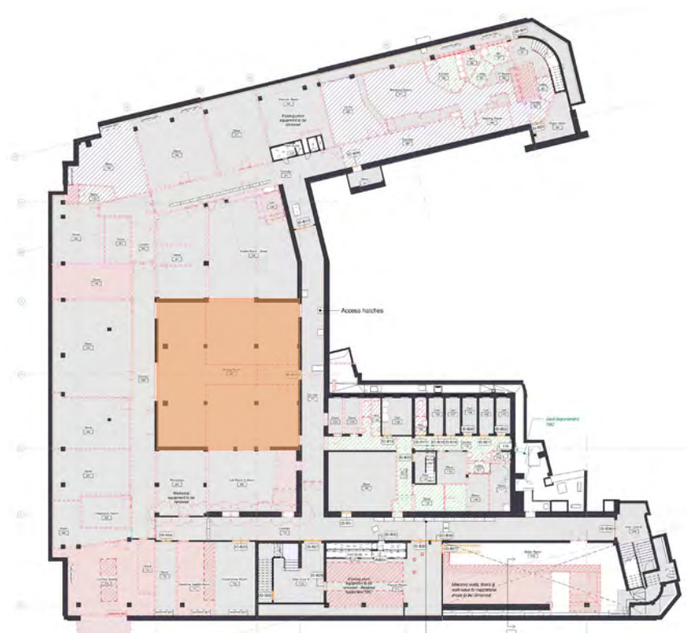
Additional walls have been retained with punched openings to retain a reading of the original wall locations whilst allowing access and light from the atria into the space. Walls openings have been depicted on the floor with floor finish changes to mark the continuation of the original wall.

The Principal Strong Room door has been retained (with some amendments to accommodate the new floor height) to retain this significant feature.

Floor finishes have been alternated within the strong room from the surrounding spaces and allowing for a clear understanding of the original 'strong room' form and function while accommodating a suitable layout for future occupier use.



Original Basement with Strong Room form indicated



Existing Basement with alterations to existing Strong Room form indicated in red



Proposed Basement 'unlocked' for use with Strong Room form indicated

4.3 Civic Function

The Council Chamber - Historical Photographs

The Council Chamber holds significant architectural, social and civic value to the community of Cambridge.

The Council Chamber is still active for democratic purposes and it is important that the chamber continues to function in this manner as well expanding its use and inclusivity to expand its appeal and use for today.

The photographs opposite depict the original fit out of the chamber, the furniture arrangement and the lobby and entrance stair leading the chamber. There is a clarity of architectural expression and materials which is evident from these black and white historic photographs.

The rigid arrangement of fixed furniture is also clear from these photographs and depict the largely singular historic function of the chamber.

However, in present day, a multifunctional hard working space which is flexibility and adaptable is required in order to remain relevant and valuable to the widest breadth of the community of Cambridge as possible.



Guildhall first council meeting (1939)
Source: https://capturingcambridge.org/museum-of-cambridge/museum-exhibit-stories/guildhall/



First floor landing and entrance to Council Chamber (1939)
Source: https://www.ribapix.com/Guildhall-Cambridge-the-first-floor-landing_RIBA73664?ribasearch=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucmliYXBpeC5jb20vc2VhcmNoP3E9Y2FtYnJpZGdlK2d1aWxkaGFsbA==



Council Chamber (1939)
Source: https://www.ribapix.com/Guildhall-Cambridge-the-council-chamber_RIBA73666?ribasearch=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucmliYXBpeC5jb20vc2VhcmNoP3E9Y2FtYnJpZGdlK2d1aWx kaGFsbA==



Main entrance staircase leading to the council chambers (1939)
Source: https://www.ribapix.com/Guildhall-Cambridge-the-staircase_RIBA73663?ribasearch=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucmliYXBpeC5jb20vc2VhcmNoP3E9Y2FtYnJpZGdlK2d1aWxkaGFsbA==

4.3 Civic Function

The Council Chamber - Existing Condition

The interior remains largely unchanged since 1939 with the original design featuring minimal ornamentation, dark furnishings at the lower level of the space and lighter tones higher up. The city's coat of arms behind the raised dais still remains intact. The historic wall panelling, drapes, timber panelling and pendant lights are present adding interest and detail to the space.

Any proposals aim to strike a balance between meeting future requirements and conservation of the architectural significance and character of the chamber. The intention is to enhance the chamber and elevate its value to the community of Cambridge by increasing inclusivity and accessibility, use and function.

The opposite photographs highlight some of the original features including fixed joinery and wall panelling, furniture, light fittings and the Dais as well as show the current condition of the interior fit out.

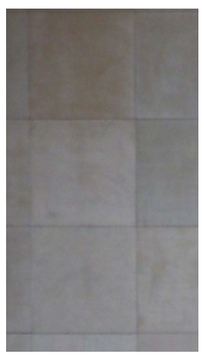
Key features identified:

1. Australian Oak furnishings: largely in very good condition, will require minimal refurbishment.
2. White leather panelling to walls: a light touch clean of the panels is proposed and where staining is evident, panels are to be carefully addressed.
3. Red leather upholstered seating & carpet: The leather upholstery is cracked in areas and will require reupholstering. The carpet is wearing and will be replaced with a new quality carpet and underlay.
4. Coffered decorative plaster ceiling with ventilation cowls: The condition of cowls be assessed and form part of the proposed ventilation strategy.
5. Original Clock: The clock will be assessed to determine functionality. If not operational, it will be restored to working condition.
6. Original light pendant fittings: in working use and in good condition. These will be relamped with energy efficient lamps where required to reduce operational energy and carbon usage.
7. Items within / surrounding the recessed display cabinet: Items are in good condition and will be retained on display.





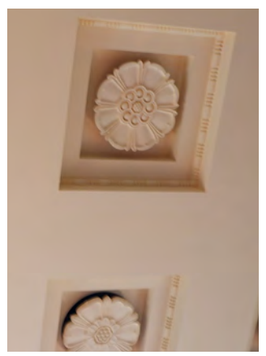
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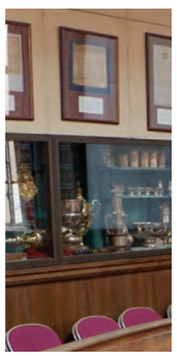
4



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6



7

4.3 Civic Function

The Council Chamber - Existing Limitations

Although the Council Chamber is currently able to function to host a number of civic events, there are limitations to widening the use of the space. The key limitations include:

- Limitations on Civic Functions - The chamber cannot currently accommodate a Unitary Council Meeting due to a lack of seats. The seating numbers and supporting furniture to host larger council meetings is restricted by the existing fixed furniture layout and numbers.
- Accessibility & Inclusivity - The chamber is not fully inclusive with floor level changes as well as restricted circulation within the chamber due to the fixed furniture layout. The seating is arranged over a series of levels that create significant issues with accessibility, particularly for those less mobile. The stepped floor is highlighted with unsightly hazard markers and presents a possible trip hazard. Greater accessibility within the chamber is required to improve inclusivity and welcome a wider communal use and enjoyment of the space.
- Modern Ways of Working - Existing furniture does not allow for easy use of modern IT such as laptops. The current fixed seating and sloping worktops are not conducive to modern ways of working. The drawers designed to hold paper are no longer of use for those using laptops or tablets. Adaptations or replacement would facilitate modern usage making it more relevant and attractive to modern uses.
- Modern IT/AV/Power/DATA Provision - Not being able to charge electronic devices is a regular issue for those in the Chamber over long periods of time. Cabling is currently provided above the surface level causing trip hazards. The existing IT/AV/power & data infrastructure within the chamber needs to be improved to greater facilitate uses of the chamber.
- User Comfort - Numerous users have raised issues with the comfort of the existing seats, particularly over a long period of time. The provision of modern seating and laptop desking which is designed in a more ergonomic way would improve user comfort.
- Internal Environment - The existing ventilation systems are to be reviewed for improved function to service the chamber as well as improved environmental efficiency and operational energy usage making the chamber more economical in use. An adequate heating and ventilation arrangement within the chamber will improve the user experience, particularly for longer use functions as well as aid the long term costs of using and maintaining the chamber.
- Supporting Spaces - The gallery space is stepped with a low existing balustrade presenting a possible hazard.

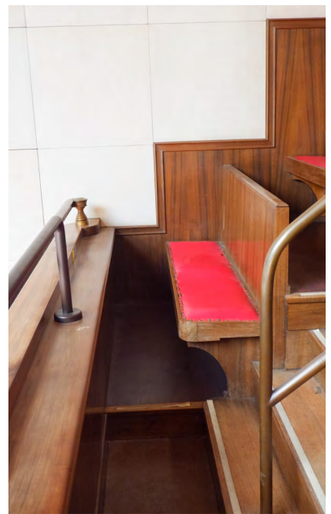
Currently, the Chamber is only used by a limited number of people for limited periods of time due to the above issues. Addressing these issues will allow more public access into this significant historic space and will help to ensure its long term use and retention as a core civic and multifunctional public space.



Council Chamber with exposed cabling and hazard tape evident. Floor level changes visible and restricted access into and around the fixed furniture arrangement.



Left: Council Chamber seating in poor repair rendering it uncomfortable for users.



Right: The gallery with step access and low balustrade.

4.3 Civic Function

The Council Chamber - Proposals & Benefits

The intention is to enhance the chamber and elevate its value to the community of Cambridge by increasing inclusivity and accessibility, use and function. The key proposals to address the current limitations of the chamber include:

Expanding Civic Functions

- Chamber seating arrangement - by removing the existing furniture, relocating it to appropriate locations within the Guildhall, and replacing it with a modern designed chamber chair in a horseshoe arrangement (to reflect the existing arrangement), whilst accommodating both additional wheelchair accessible spaces and additional seating, the opportunity to host the expanding range of civic functions can be created.
- Civic functions location - it is felt that the most appropriate space for the civic functions of this nature is the historic civic chamber itself. The new chamber seats and arrangement will accommodate a Unitary Council of 70no. Members, continuing the long standing relationship with this chamber as the heart of government within Cambridge.
- Existing historic furniture - it is proposed that the historic chamber seating will be refurbished and relocated to specific areas within the Guildhall including the heart space, Police Court and at the entrance to the chamber itself where it can be appreciated and used. Adaptations to the existing furniture during refurbishment will make it more accommodating of modern uses in its new location. Several items will be retained within the chamber.

Improving Accessibility and Flexibility

- Floor level changes - Installing an access floor with the ability to be raised (subject to further technical development) allows for the creation of a fully level floor. The existing mid level will be retained to maintain the sightlines and raked seating effect but improving accessibility. This will retain similar original proportions and feel of the room. The existing lower level will have an access floor to conceal new services.
- A new platform lift will serve the Dais. This needs careful further review and on-site surveys to confirm the practicality and feasibility.

Improving User Comfort & Seating Functionality

- New chamber seating proposals - the provision of ergonomic modern chamber seating with laptop desking, communications, power and lighting which is designed and customised to complement the historic chamber will resolve the existing reported user comfort and functionality issues related to the existing chamber seating.

Enabling Modern Ways of Working

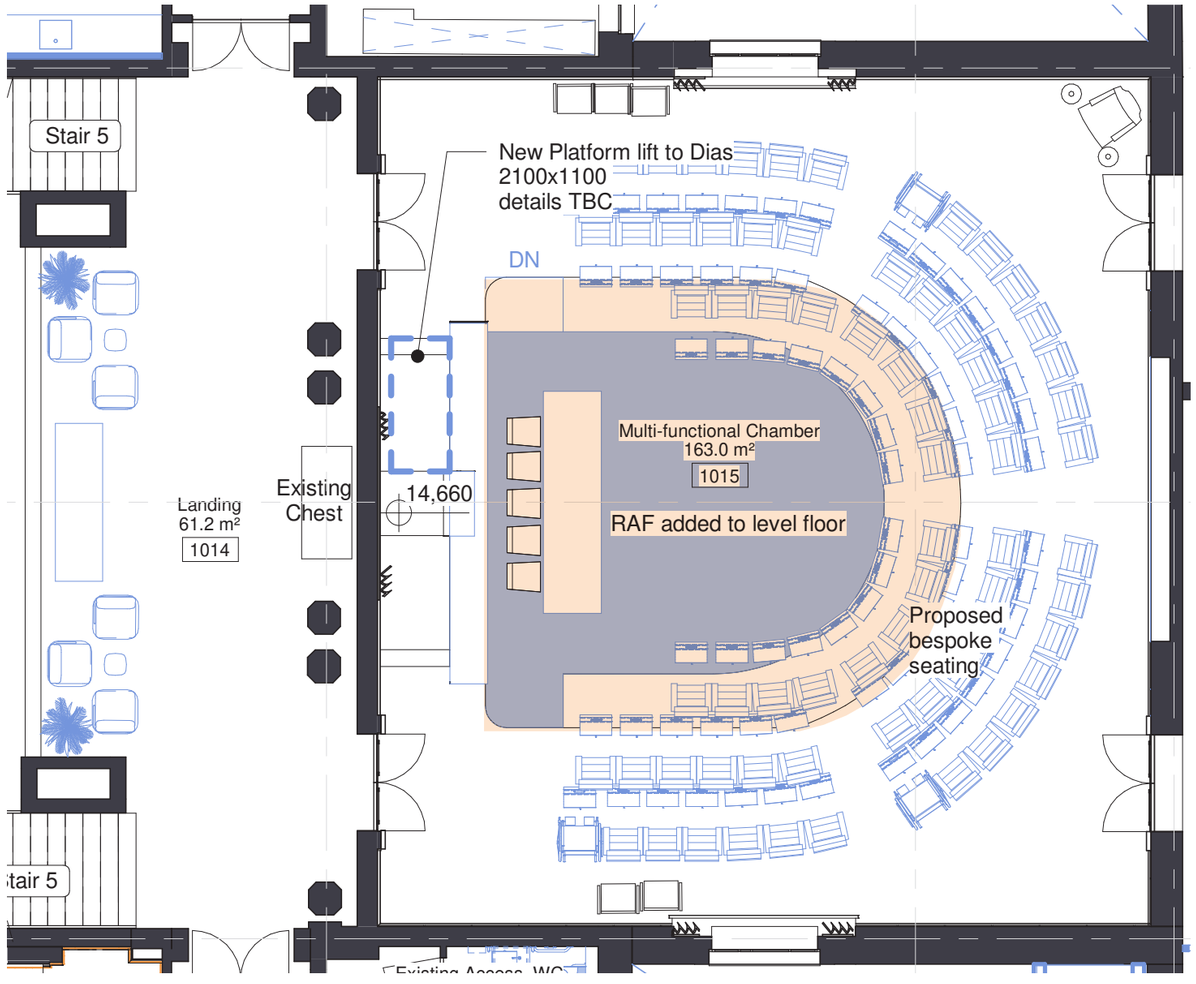
- Access floor - The provision of an access floor will allow for service routes to be included facilitating power / data & modern IT/AV.

Improved Internal Environment

- Existing heating, cooling & ventilation routes will be utilised with adaptations and connections to new efficient services aiding the long term costs of using and maintaining the chamber in use and improving user experience, particularly longer functions.
- Reviewing Supporting Spaces - The low existing balustrade to the gallery will be retained with a higher balustrade set behind it improving health and safety in this area.

We have developed our proposals in consultation with Historic England and have revised initial proposals to better reflect their concerns.

Historic England have stated that they "can support the sensitive adaptation of this space to increase its capacity so it can accommodate the increased numbers required for the future Unitary Authority meetings, also to improve its accessibility and power and data provision." We believe we have now addressed their concerns by striking a balance between creating a functional, comfortable and desirable civic chamber with conservation of the existing architectural significance and character.



Council Chamber and Proposed Landing Plan

Orange fill represents the area of lower flooring. The existing lowest level will be raised to create a single level change. This is proposed as an area of floor that can be in-filled when a fully flexible level floor is required.

4.3 Civic Function

The Council Chamber - New Chamber Seating & Presentations

Chamber Seating

Our proposals include a new high quality chamber chair of modern design in a horseshoe arrangement to reflect the existing arrangement. However, the arrangement will accommodate both additional wheelchair accessible spaces and additional seating numbers providing the opportunity to host the expanding range of civic functions including the new Unitary Council of 70no. members. Accommodating a Unitary Council within the historic room continues the long standing relationship with this chamber as the heart of government within Cambridge.

The provision of a high quality modern ergonomic chamber seat with laptop desking, communications, power and lighting which is designed and customised to complement the historic chamber will resolve the existing reported user comfort and functionality issues related to the existing chamber seating.

In order to create a highly contextual, quality solution befitting of the civic chamber and its functions and, as a response to comments from Historic England, we are developing customised proposals for the chair which will reflect the status, materials, details and ornamentation of the Guildhall.

Chamber Presentations

Providing adequate black out for presentations within the chamber has been carefully considered. Several options have been put forward, and in consultation with Historic England, we are proposing a retractable blind located within the roof lantern zone above the historic glazed ceiling light. This will provide the required black out without having a negative impact on the architecture or character of the chamber interior.

A visual display screen is required to bring the chamber IT/AV up to modern standards. The proposals include the use of moveable screens, similar to the existing arrangement.

Table & Chair Detailing



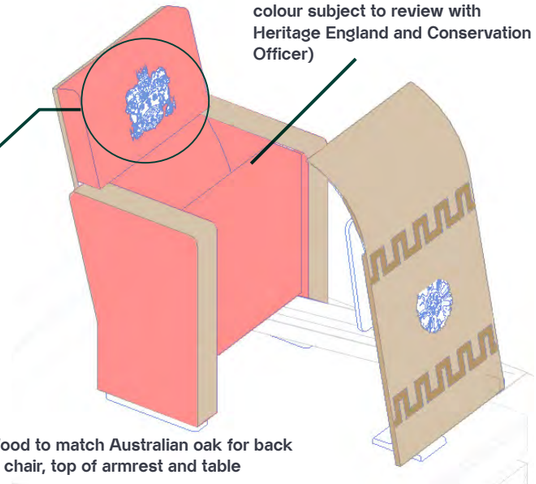
Decorative Motif

Debossed linked patternwork on Front of Privacy Screen



Cambridge City Coat of Arms

Embroidered Headrest Chrest



Chair Axo

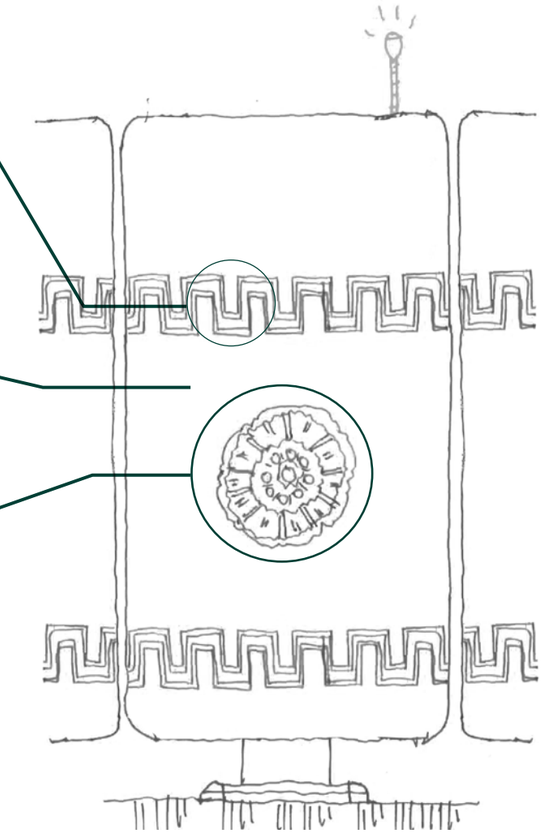


Table Elevation

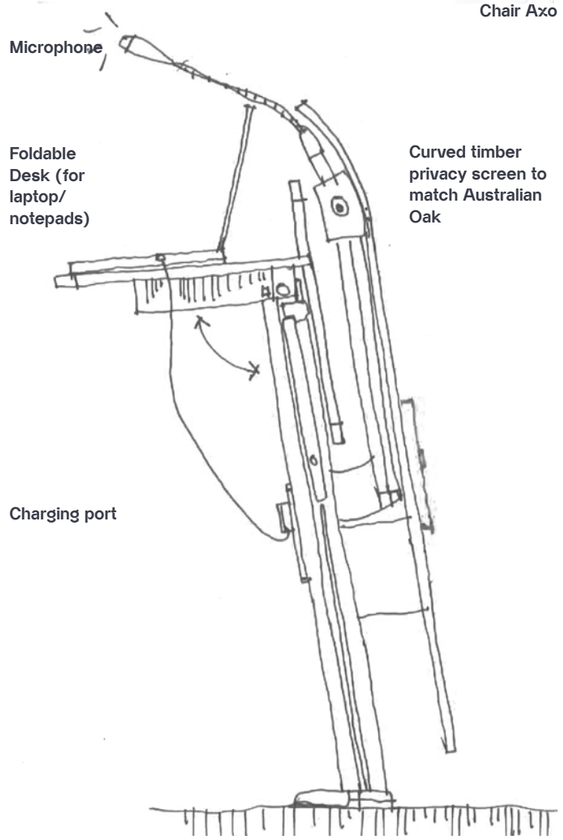


Table Section



Decorative Motif

Rose from ceiling of Council Chamber on front of privacy screen

4.3 Civic Function

Council Chamber Proposals



Council Chamber seating in a horse shoe arrangement with tiered floor

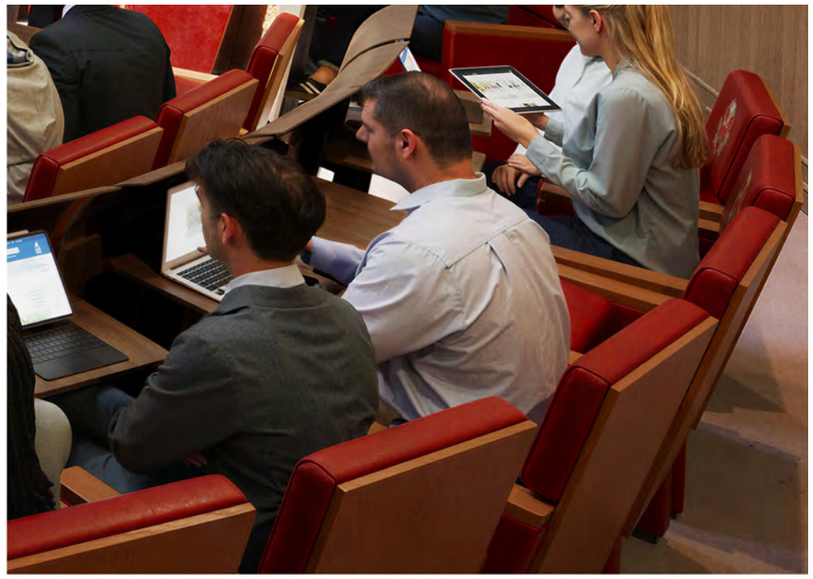
4.3 Civic Function

Council Chamber Colour Study

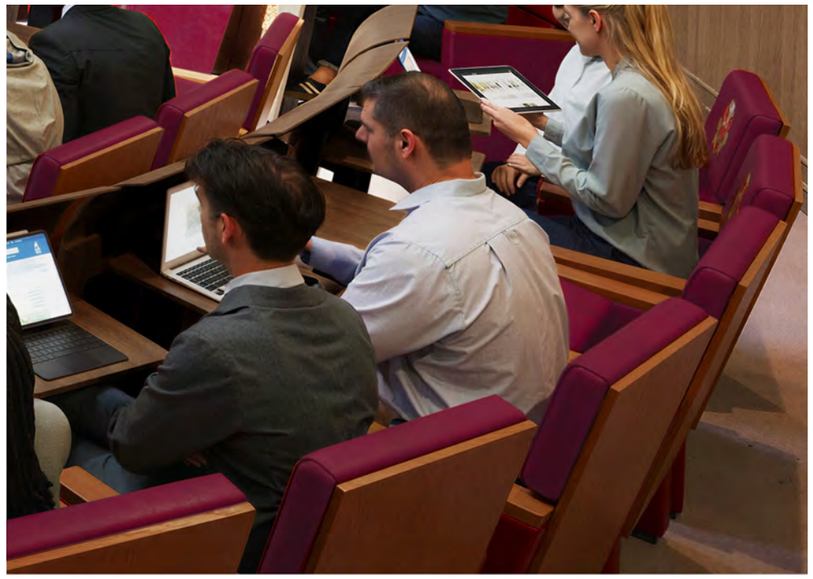
Chamber Seating Colour Options

We have carried out a colour study to explore options for the Council Chamber seating, selecting swatches that complement the existing palette. The final choice of colours and materials will be reviewed with the Conservation Officer and Historic England.

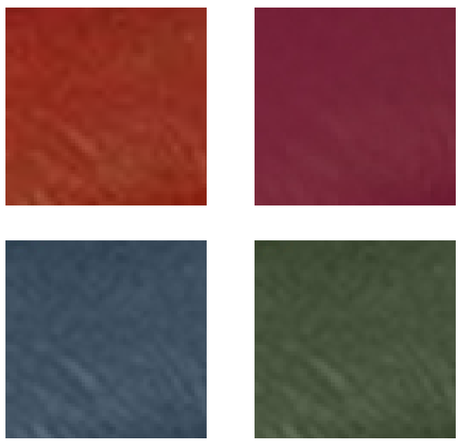
The images opposite provide an illustration of how the colours could look, base on the CGI.



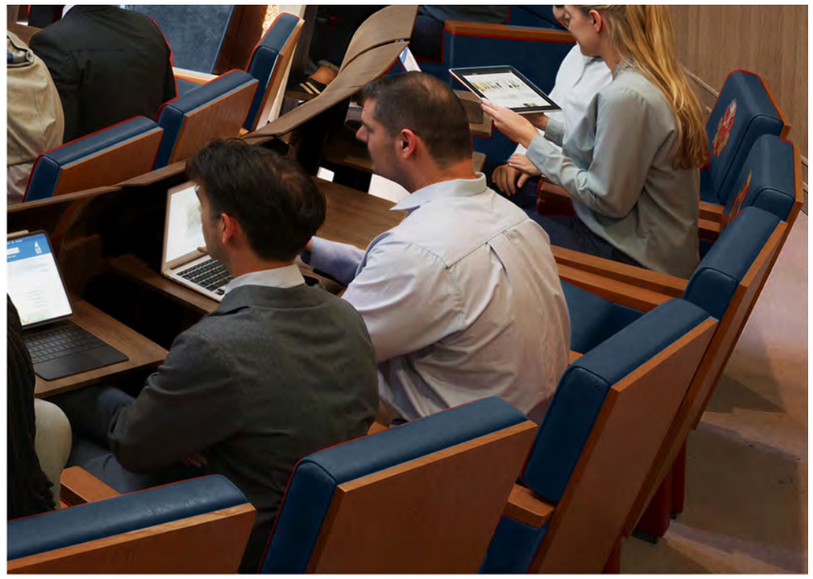
Red (to match existing chamber seating) Colour Option



Darker Red/Maroon Colour Option



Seating Colour Swatches



Blue Colour Option



Green Colour Option

4.3 Civic Function

Council Chamber Furniture Reuse

Our proposals aim to strike a balance between creating a functional, comfortable and desirable civic chamber with conservation of the architectural significance and character of the space. The intention is to enhance the chamber and elevate its value to the community of Cambridge by increasing inclusivity and accessibility, use and function.

It is proposed that the historic chamber seating will be refurbished and relocated to specific areas within the Guildhall. This furniture will be carefully documented in its original location and condition, tagged and relocated with refurbishment, to the new locations. The majority of pieces will be relocated in publicly accessible areas.

A number of items will be retained within the chamber including the Dias, historic chair, centre table and chairs. These items will have refurbishment, adaptations and reupholstering undertaken where required.

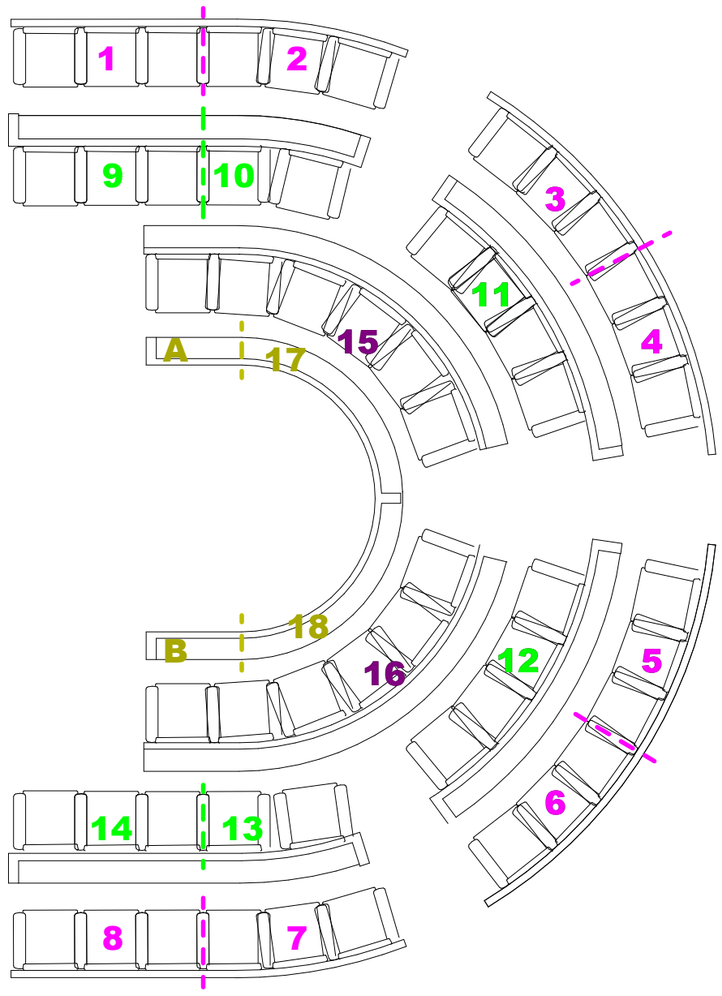
Adaptations to the existing furniture during refurbishment will make it more accommodating of modern uses in its new location. It is proposed that the addition of castors, or similar will allow the furniture to be moved around the Guildhall as required and positioned on a level floor.

The specific locations for the existing horseshoe chamber seating relocations are:

'Heart Space' - relocation to the newly created, publicly accessible heart space. General public will therefore be able to use the historic furniture whilst visiting the cafe or waiting for a meeting with the Council. The historic display cabinets may also be relocated to this space for better access by the public.

Large / Small Hall - relocation in the Small Hall, providing comfortable seating to support the function of this space may be suitable.

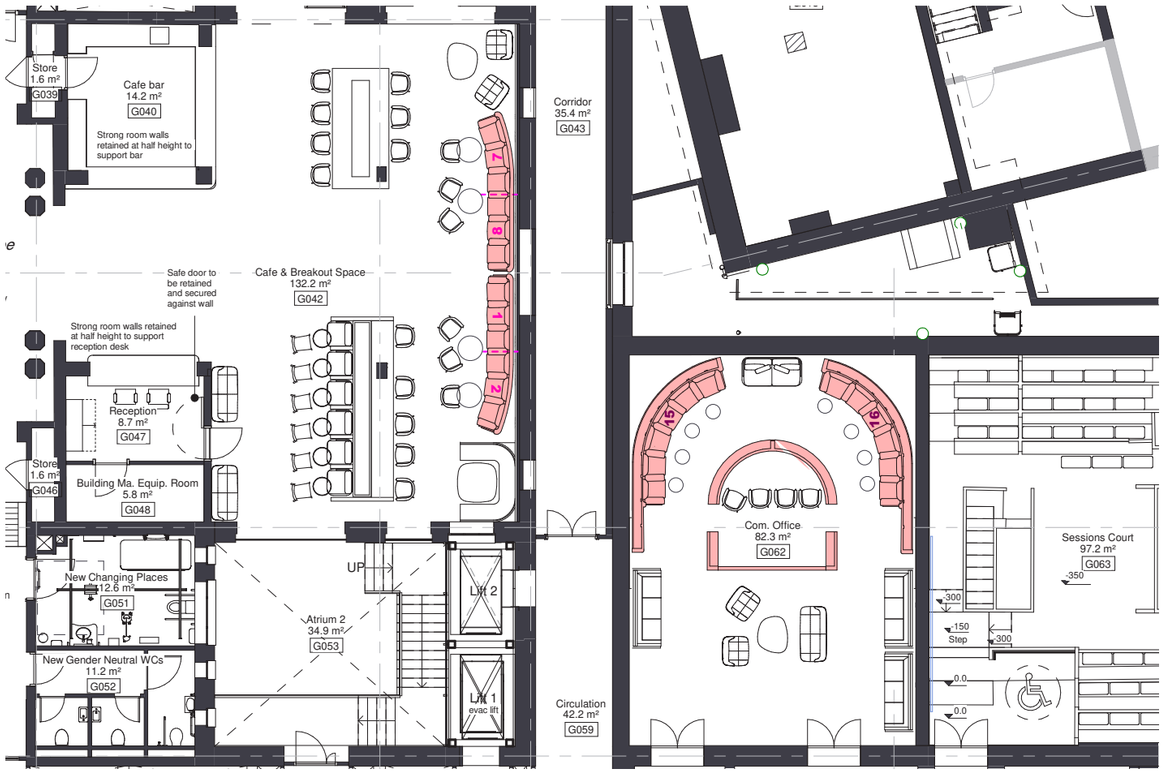
The Police Court - arranged in a similar format to that of the existing to greater reflect the historic past use and support the new short term working, networking and socialising function of the space.



3 **Council Chamber Existing Furniture Pieces**
1:50

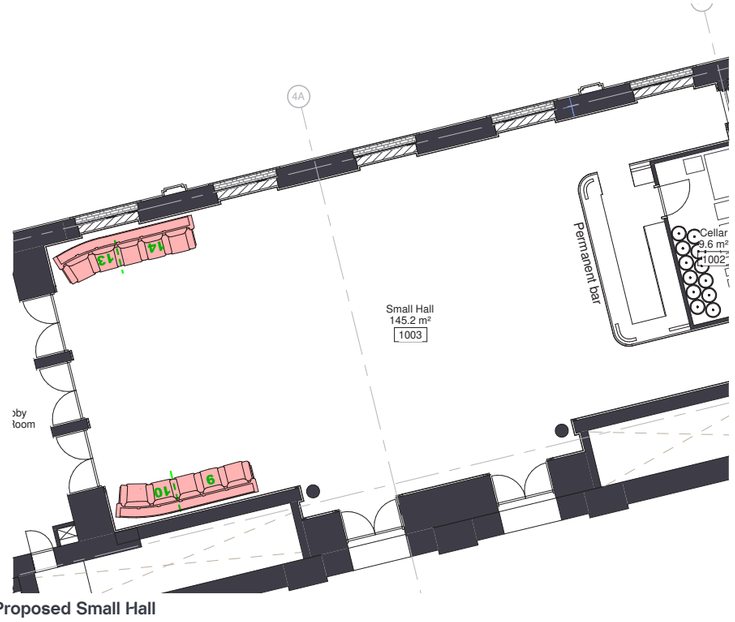
4.3 Civic Function

Council Chamber Furniture Reuse

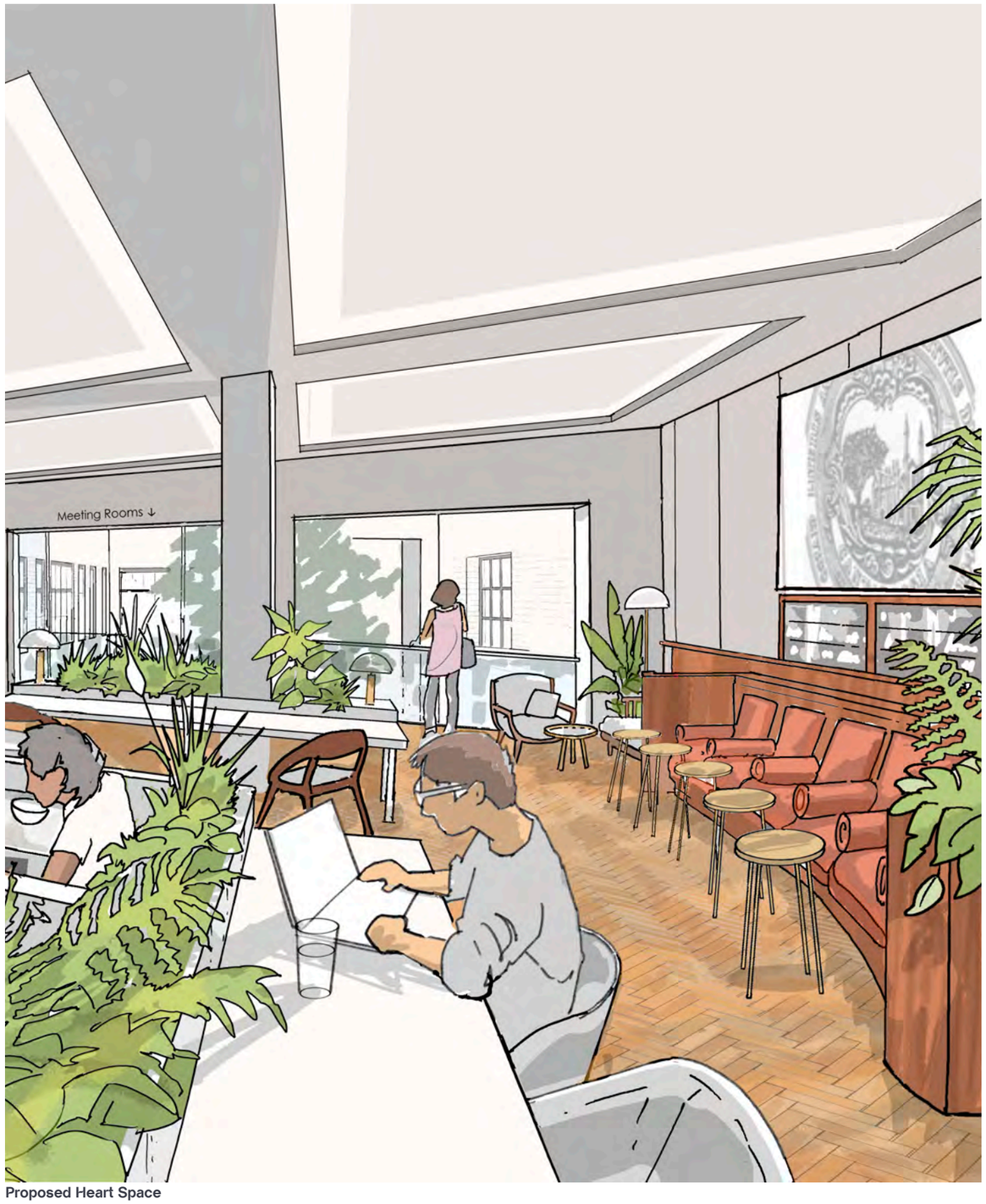


Proposed Heart Space

Proposed Police Court



Proposed Small Hall



Proposed Heart Space

4.3 Civic Function
Sessions Court

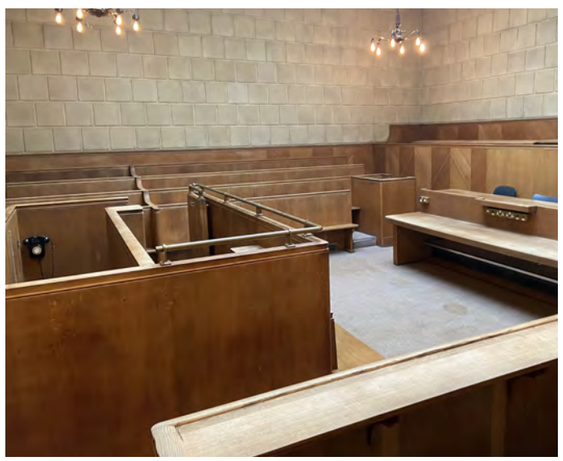
The Sessions Court is a space of high historical and architectural significance, particularly noted for its original built-in furniture arrangements, light fittings and finishes. However, as the space no longer serves its original purpose, it has become less practical for contemporary use and is currently not utilised.

A potential use for the space could be a Members working Lounge as shown here. A Members Lounge is a space that is accessible to persons subscribed to the management agreement operators offer. It is often used to work informally with amenities such as drinks and refreshments.

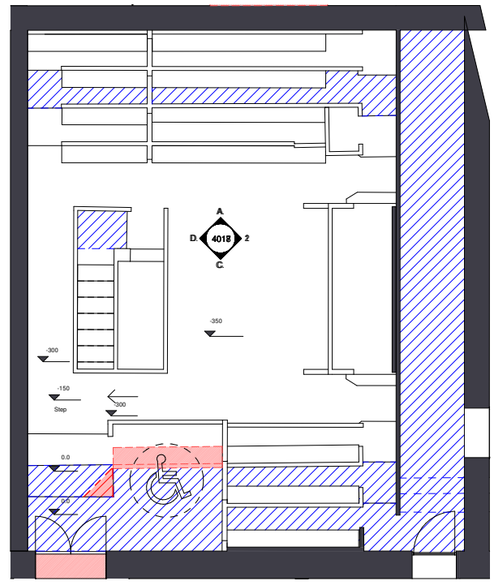
The proposal aims to preserve as much of the existing furniture as possible while incorporating contemporary enhancements to ensure the space remains functional for present-day needs.

A section of the stepped floor will be levelled (with the existing floor retained underneath) to provide an accessible area, however the majority of the space will remain in its current inaccessible but historical format.

The provision of the council chamber furniture to the adjacent Police Court, will form a similar fully accessible working lounge.

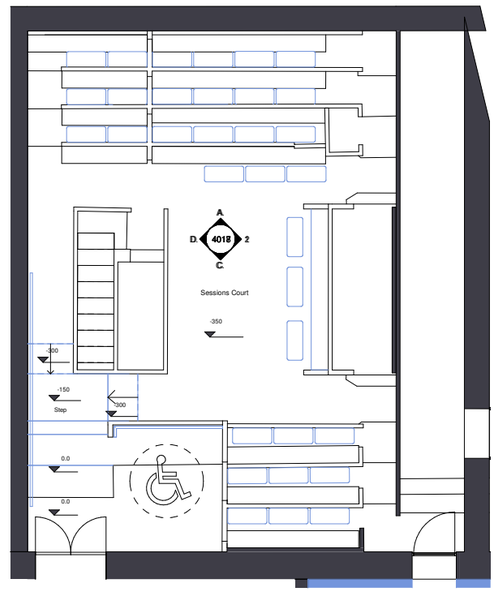


Sessions Court



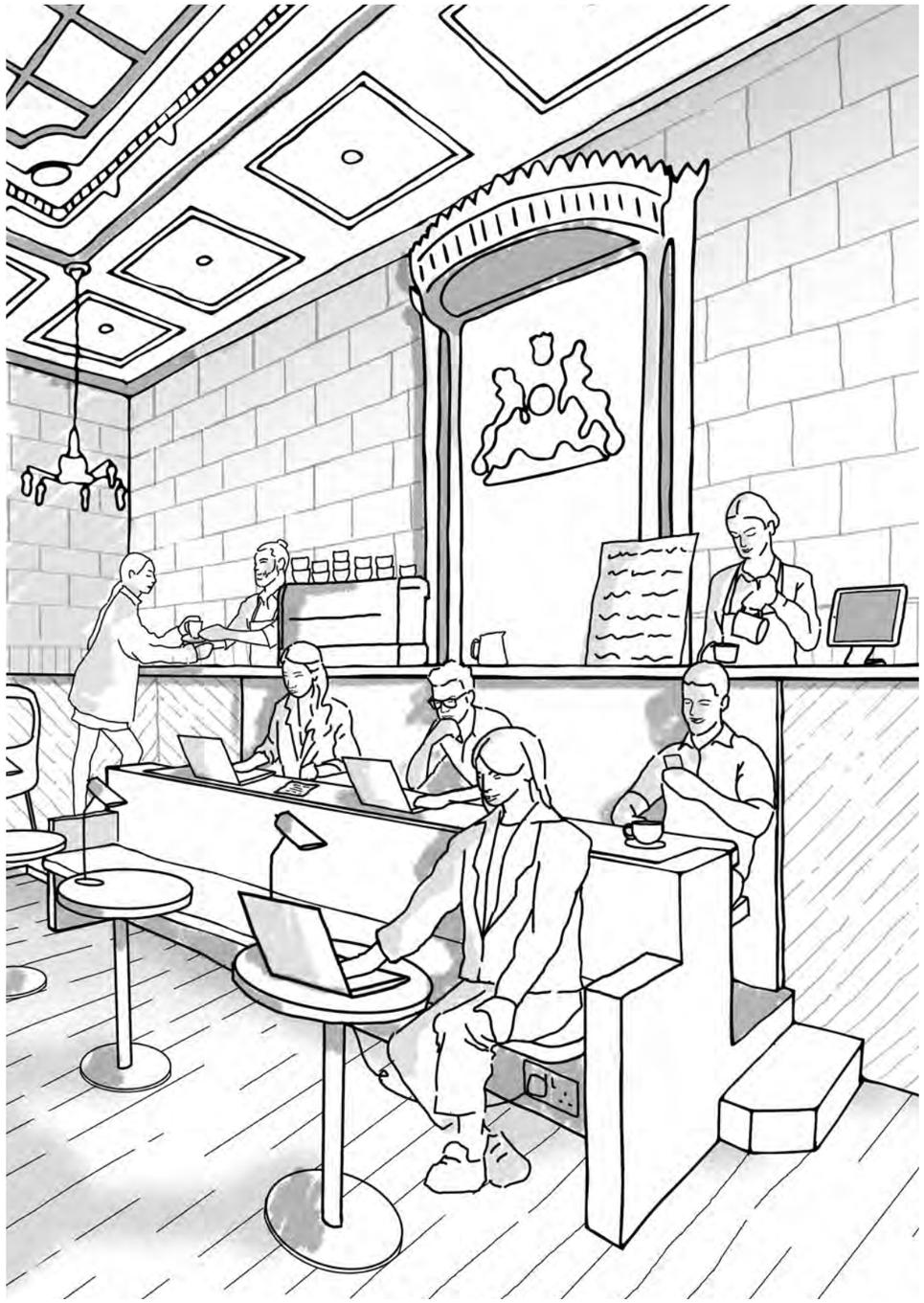
Proposed demolition Proposed carpet removal

Sessions court existing with proposed demolitions



Existing Proposed

Sessions court proposed



Proposed conversion of the Sessions Court into a members lounge with upgrades to the fixed furniture

4.3 Civic Function

The Small Hall

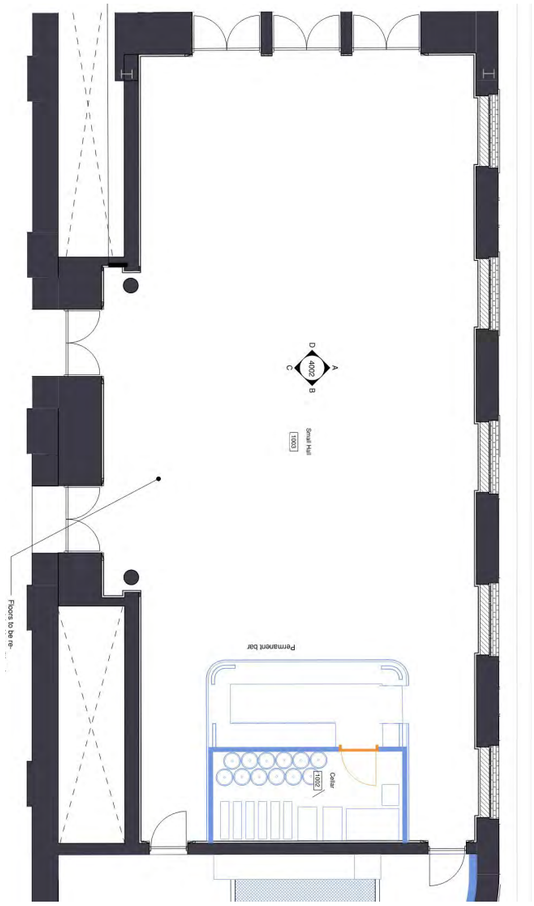
The Small Hall is of architectural interest with barrell vaulted roof, timber wall panelling and timber flooring. However the space requires refurbishment to create a useable and enjoyable venue which can best support the requirements for a range of function and event types.

The association with the catering kitchen is beneficial however, the existing modern bar is dated and requires updating to better serve the hall. In order to make the space as viable as possible, a full bar facility is required.

Our proposals have been developed with reference to comments by Historic England and a proposal for a sensitive invertention in the form of a visually free standing addition to replace the existing bar have been created. The bar will be a bespoke designed unit which will both fully support the needs of Small Hall users and complement the original interior, reflecting materials and simplicity of design. The design will incorporate acoustic properties and lighting further improving the user experience of the space and will form a punctuation point to the end of the hall echoing the form of the opposite elevation and drawing people through the space.



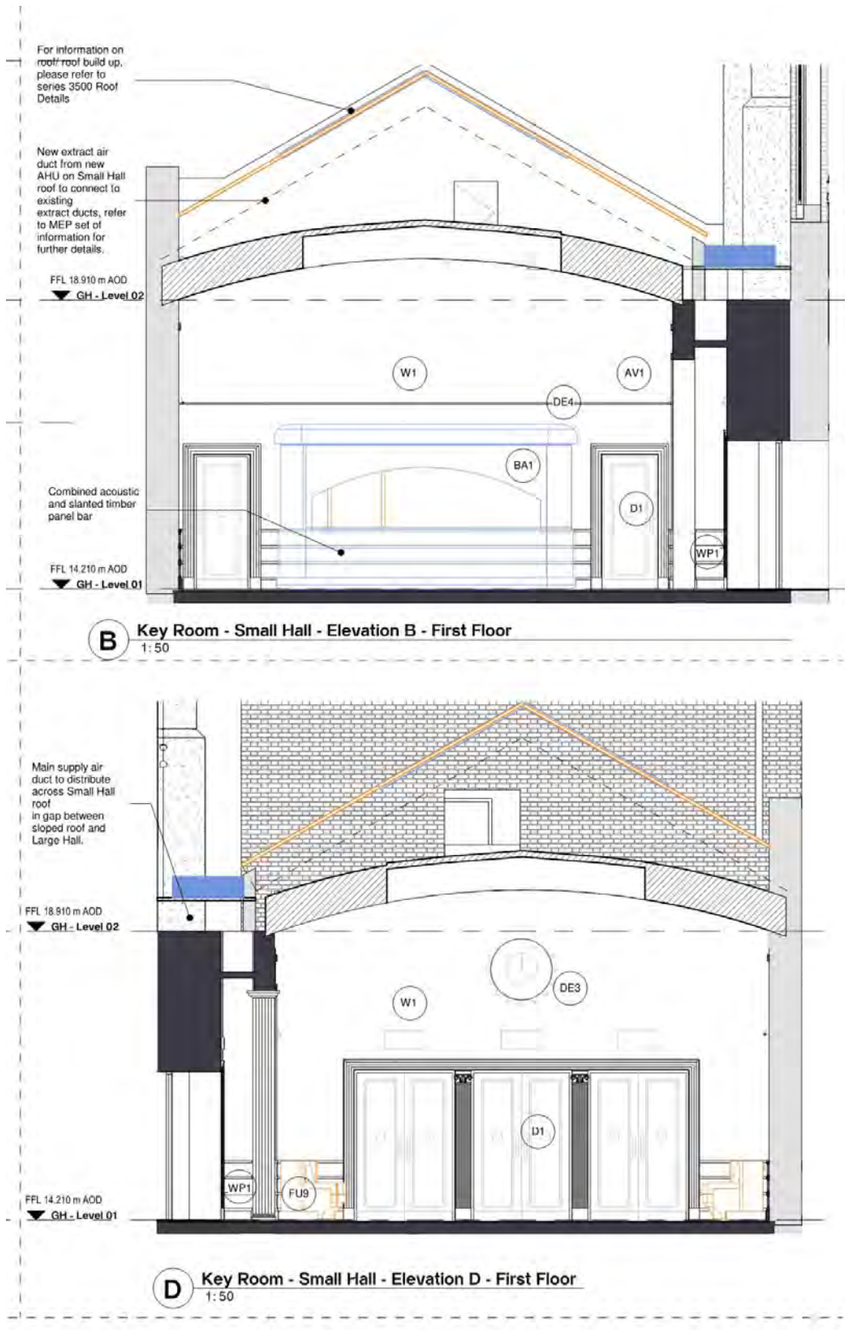
Existing Small Hall



Small Hall with proposed bar (blue) and access to catering kitchen behind



Existing Small Hall with existing bar on casters



Small Hall sections showing proposed bar (top / blue) echoing the form of the opposite elevation

4.4 Accessibility & Inclusivity
Access Strategy

Accessibility

Accessibility and inclusivity have been highlighted as of the utmost importance to the redevelopment of Cambridge Civic Quarter and its success. We too believe this is key to creating a more attractive central Cambridge destination for residents and visitors of the City.

We must improve accessibility of the whole Civic Quarter to improve Civic facilities within the Guildhall, the cultural offer of the Corn Exchange and the experience of the Market Square.

The Council's accessibility officer has been consulted during RIBA Stage 2 and 3 and his recommendations are being incorporated.

Key areas of concern raised by the accessibility officer was the level access provision to the Guildhall. The officers preference was the provision of ramped access alongside the existing stairs. Several sessions, including on-site reviews, were held with the officer to review suggestions. That said, the constraints of the main entrance to the Guildhall, make a ramped solution problematic.

It is therefore proposed to sensitively install a platform lift into the existing steps and provide alternative access via Peas Hill, through an intercom system.

The key areas to be addressed are:

Provision of level access at main entrances - The provision of level access via platform lifts where currently there are stairs will allow inclusivity for all. We have explored the use of ramps but this option was discounted, please see the following page.

Provision of vertical transportation via new Approved Doc M or greater sized lifts - The existing atria lifts are insufficient in size and will be replaced with new Part M wheelchair accessible lifts to provide an inclusive route vertically through the building. Door openings and car sizes will be appropriately sized to allow for greater inclusivity.

Accessible cycle storage - To encourage those of all abilities to travel to the Guildhall actively it is proposed to provide 5% of cycle spaces for the storage of larger bikes, hand cycles or recumbent. Spaces are provided at ground floor, plus further basement level provision is accessible via a large cycle lift.

Council Chambers level access - proposals to alter the Council Chamber fixed furniture and introduce an adaptable floor will provide level access to this key heritage space. It will also improve the ability of wheelchair users to partake in key meetings that take place in the Chamber. The proposals also include the provision of an integrated platform lift to provide wheelchair access to all levels of the dais. This will allow the unsightly existing platform lift to be removed.

Public toilets and Changing Places facility - The proposals include four publicly accessible gender neutral WC's on the ground floor of the Guildhall. One of these is a fully compliant Changing Places facility and another is wheelchair accessible.

Parents room - a publicly accessible private room for parents to use is being provided on the ground floor of the Guildhall. The room will provide a private, comfortable and calm space to help parents and will include baby changing facilities.

Easy to use sanitaryware - within the toilets the selection of taps, flushing devices and door ironmongery will be carefully selected to allow use by all regardless of ability. This will include sensors to improve hygiene and cleanliness also.

Hearing support systems - the inclusion of induction loops and/ or equivalent listening systems within the Guildhall will be carefully considered and reviewed by engaging with disability groups and access consultants.

Seating and rest points - will be provided around the Guildhall, especially within the reception area and Customer Service Centre. This will aid visitors and building users with reduced stamina.

Lighting and Contrast - careful design of the lighting within the Guildhall will aim to maintain consistent light levels in all areas

Material Choices and Colour - the colour scheme will be chosen to both reflect and / or complement the heritage colours originally used in the Guildhall but also carefully selected to maintain required visual contrast but avoid visual overload.

Wayfinding - successful wayfinding and signage within the Guildhall is key to making the building more accessible. The proposals will install clear directional signage with high-contrast colours, legible typefaces, and tactile/Braille options where appropriate. Signage will be in keeping with the heritage aesthetic

Accessible doors - doors are a major barrier to accessibility and especially in a heritage building. We will be reviewing the opening forces required to operate doors and reduce these where possible. The addition of automatic opening devices will included where required.

Neurodiversity - our neurodiversity considerations will focus on making the environment more predictable, less overwhelming, and easier to navigate for people with conditions such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, or sensory processing differences

The provision of **Sensory Calm Spaces** within the Guildhall will allow visitors to retreat to a quiet/ low-stimulation area. A **Wellness room** is provide for Council Staff, with further details on the following pages.

Working environment - to maintain occupant comfort it is proposed that controls will be provided to adjust internal temperatures slightly. Those using the office space will also be able to open windows.

Glare control - will be provided by the provision of blinds to all windows, these will be controlled by office users.

Acoustics - are being carefully reviewed and reverberation/ echo reduced. This will make the spaces more pleasant to occupy and more comfortable for those sensitive to sound.



4.4 Accessibility & Inclusivity

Market Hill Entrance

External

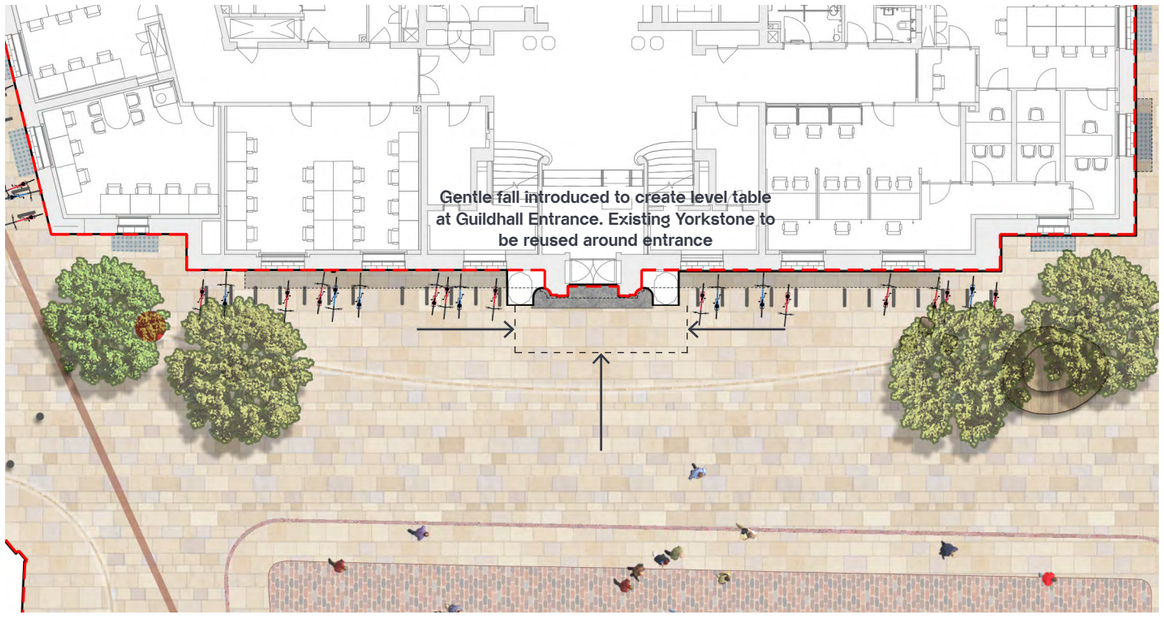
The existing main entrance to the Guildhall is accessed via Market Hill. There is a small area of Yorkstone paving directly outside the entrance and a small step up into the building. This step, along with those internally, inhibits access for all.

Our proposals involve adjusting the levels externally to raise the Yorkstone paving and gently ramp away from the entrance. This will remove the external step.

Please see sketch plan and section opposite.

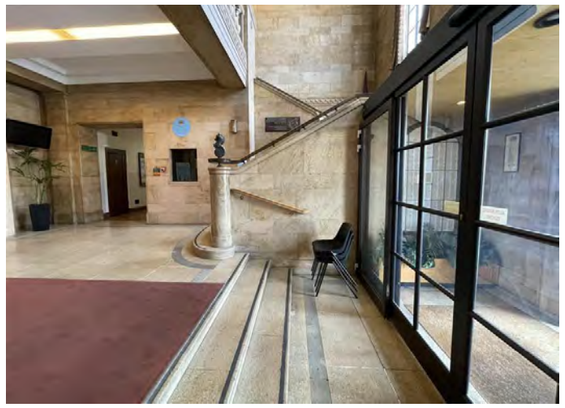






Internal

Once within the main entrance visitors are then faced with three internal steps - with an overall rise of around 330mm. This again inhibits access..



Existing Steps to Market Street Entrance

Proposed Solution - Hidden Platform Lift

It is proposed to integrate a hidden platform lift into the steps within the main entrance.

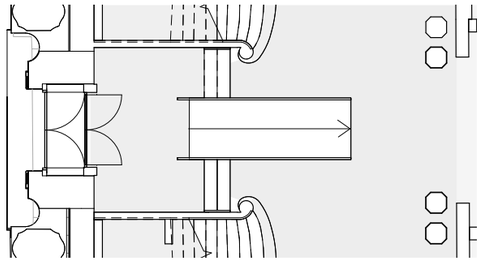
Products are available, as shown below, with an embedded step lift solution that is totally concealed when not in use. The platform lift will be designed and constructed to suit the exacting requirements of the Guildhall.

The original steps will be used to ensure the lift ties in seamlessly with the surrounding finishes, thereby limiting the impact on the high heritage entrance foyer.

The platform lift can be embedded into a flight of steps/ stairs and the upper landing, when activated the steps/ stairs fold to a flat surface.

Design Option - Ramp

A ramp combined with steps would provide access for all. To rise the 330mm a 5m long ramp at 1:15 would be required. This option was discounted due to the significant impact on the usability of the entrance hall.



After operation, the step lifts will return to function as a standard staircase. They remain hidden as they are clad using the same floor finish as the surround area.

Operation of the lift takes around one minute, allowing wheelchair users to enter the Guildhall through the main entrance and the same entrance as companions/ colleagues etc.



4.4 Accessibility & Inclusivity

Guildhall Street & Peas Hill Entrances

Guildhall Street - Existing External

The existing entrance from Guildhall Street is level and provides an accessible threshold. Therefore, apart from resurfacing Guildhall Street and replacing the internal set of doors, no material alterations are proposed.

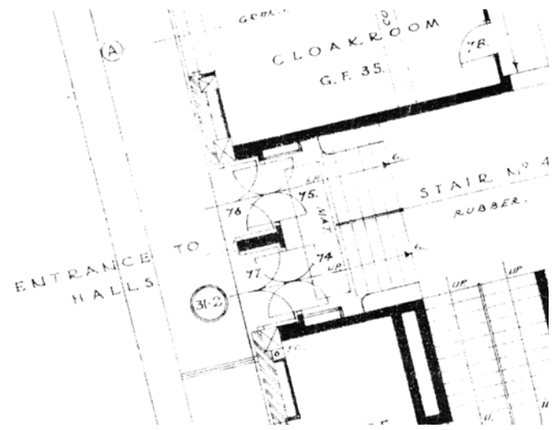


Guildhall Street Existing Entrance

Guildhall Street - Existing Internal

Once through the external threshold visitors are presented with five steps to access the ground floor.

Therefore to make this entrance accessible it is proposed to install a platform lift, as the Market Hill main entrance.



Original plan of the entrance to the halls

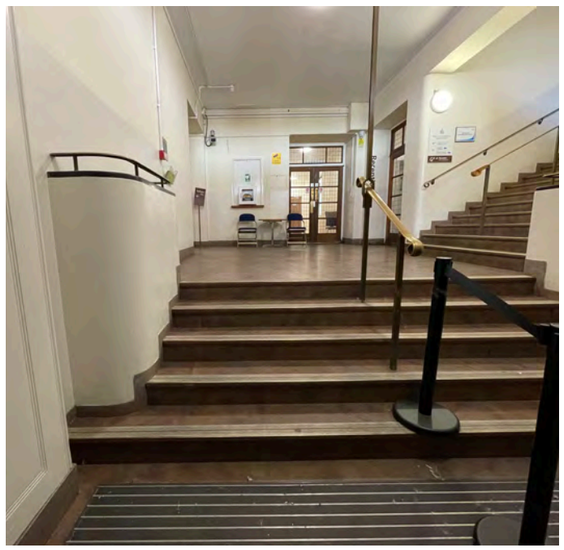
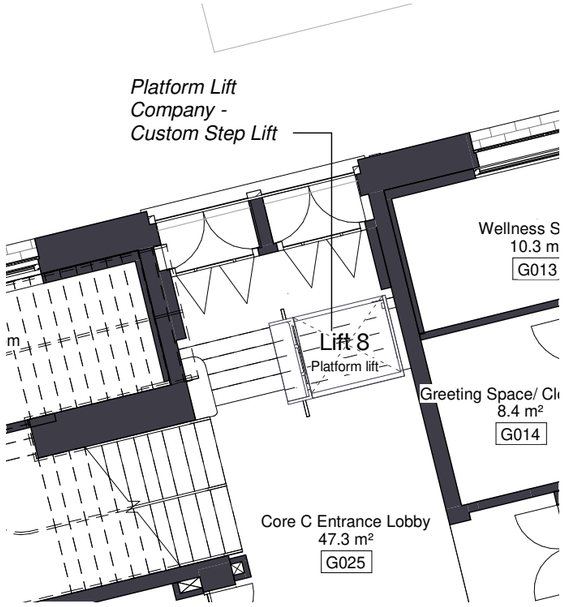


Photo of entrance steps

Proposed Internal Alterations

The rise of this stair is around 770mm, there are currently five steps.

Due to the greater rise here than at the main entrance additional guarding will be required. The existing stair has a central handrail and this can be utilised in the future arrangement.



Proposed plan arrangement

Peas Hill

The current entrance on Peas Hill provides level access into the Guildhall. We are therefore not proposing to make any changes to this entrance.



Peas Hill Existing Entrance

4.4 Accessibility & Inclusivity

Council Chamber & Large Hall

Council Chamber

There is currently no wheelchair accessible provision serving the Dias within the Council Chamber.

It is proposed to introduce a hidden platform lift to provide access and widen inclusivity to the council chamber.

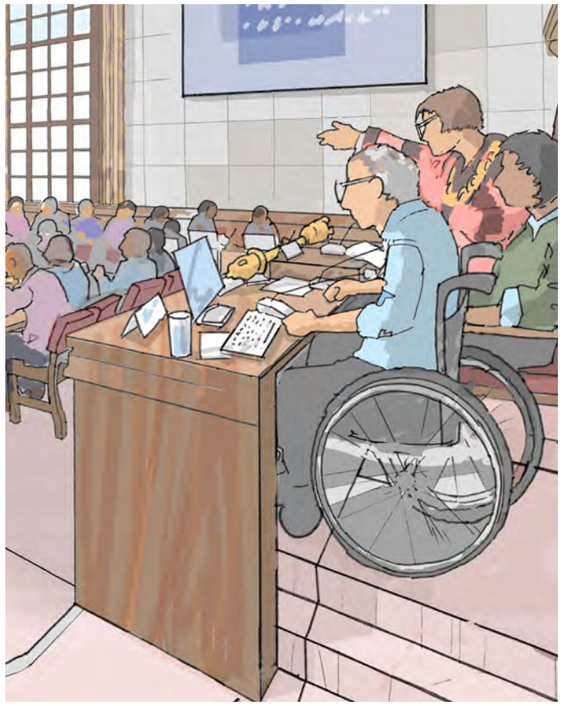
This needs careful further review and on-site surveys to confirm the practicality and feasibility of installing a platform lift in this historic fabric and providing a safe and usable wheelchair accessible space.

Large Hall

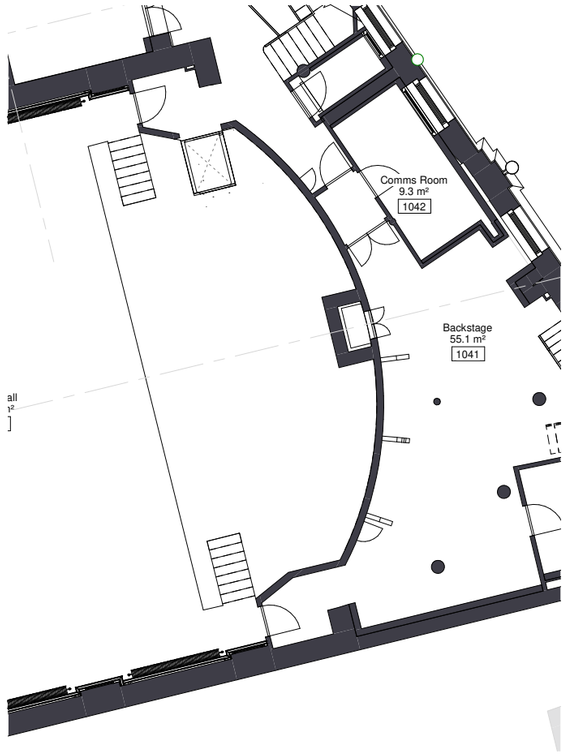
There is currently no wheelchair accessible provision serving the stage within the large hall limiting use and appeal of the venue.

It is proposed to introduce a platform lift to provide access and widen inclusivity to the Large Hall.

New proposed platform lift, Part M Compliant (certified to EN81-41)



Existing Wheelchair access



4.4 Accessibility & Inclusivity

Lifts

Existing Lifts

Vertical circulation is provided with two lifts and a good distribution of stairs.

The lifts are provided in strategic locations on the building plan arrangement adjacent to stairs and serving both side of the building. They run from the basement to the fourth floor, serving all levels of the building.

The existing lifts are not Part M compliant and are proposed to be replaced with fully accessible lifts.



Existing and original lift locations



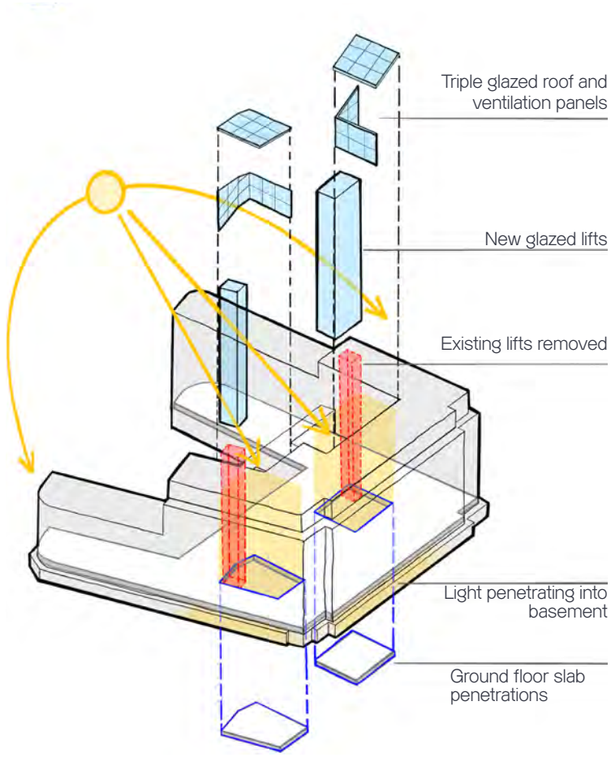
Existing lift door



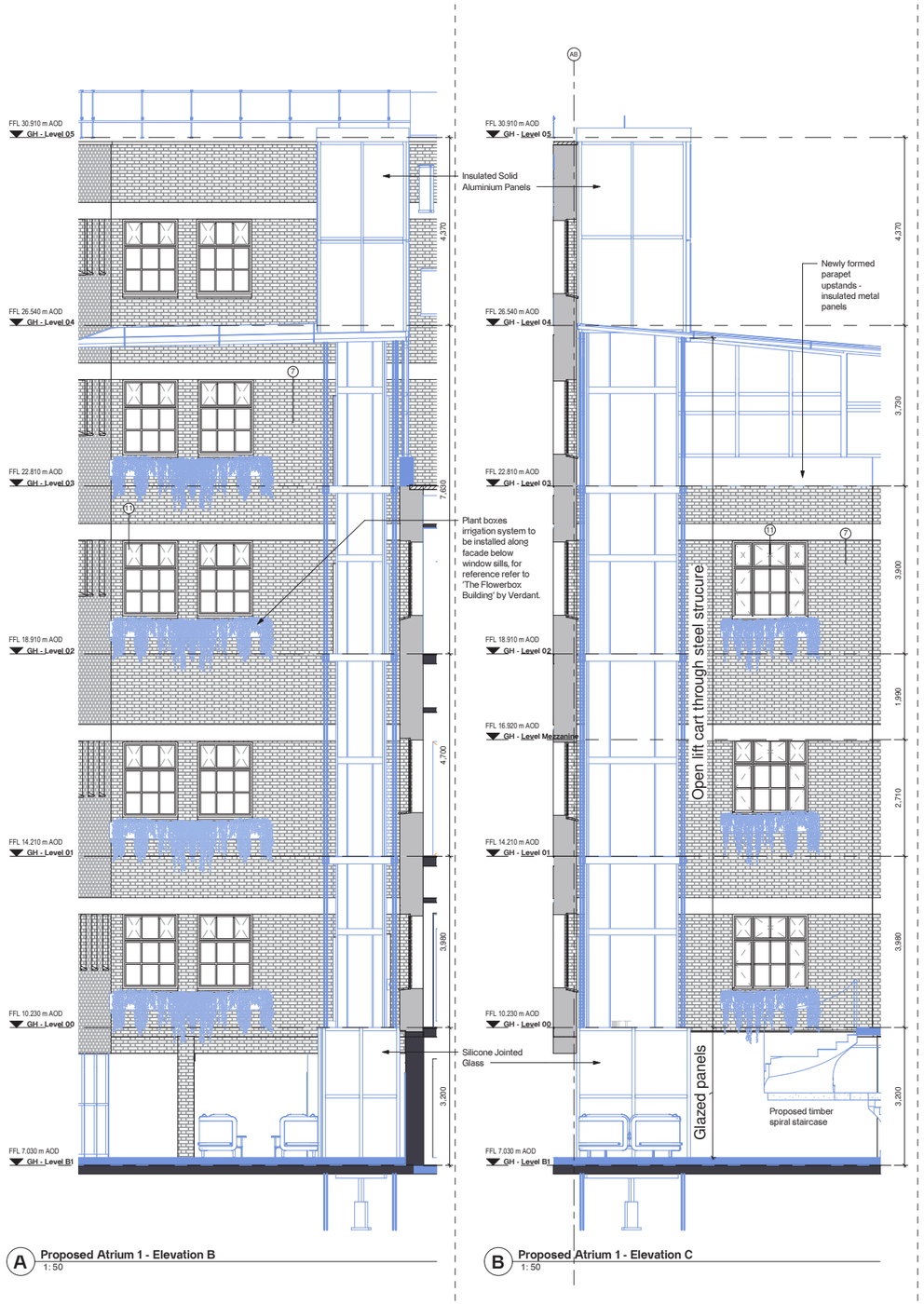
Existing brick clad lift shaft

Proposals

It is proposed to remove the existing lifts, keeping new lifts in the same locations. With the enclosure of the lightwells to form atria there is an opportunity to both improve accessibility and create a distinct



Concept diagram



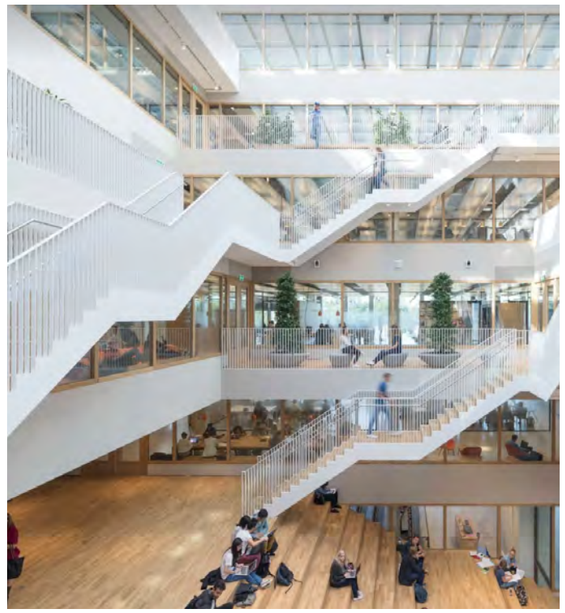
A Proposed Atrium 1 - Elevation B
1: 50

B Proposed Atrium 1 - Elevation C
1: 50

4.4 Accessibility & Inclusivity

Lifts









Top image source
Paul de Ruiter Architects, Polak Building https://architizer.com/idea/1566239/,www.archdaily.com/782555/

View - Atria 1, Lifts (to the right) providing inclusive vertical access.

4.4 Accessibility & Inclusivity

Changing Places & Breastfeeding Room

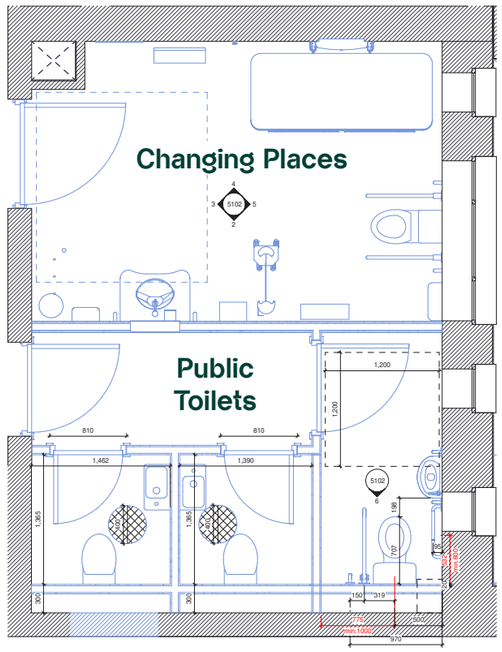
Changing Places Toilet

"People with profound and multiple learning disabilities or with physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis often need extra equipment and space to allow them to use the toilets safely and comfortably.

These needs are met by Changing Places toilets. Changing Places Toilets enable anyone, regardless of their disability, to go to the shops, attend hospital appointments, enjoy community life, socialise and travel. All the things that most of us take for granted every day. Changing Places toilets should be provided in addition to standard accessible toilets."

https://www.changing-places.org/pages/view/what-are-we-campaigning-for

We are therefore incorporating a Changing Places Toilet within the ground floor of the Guildhall. This will sit alongside public toilets including a standard accessible WC.



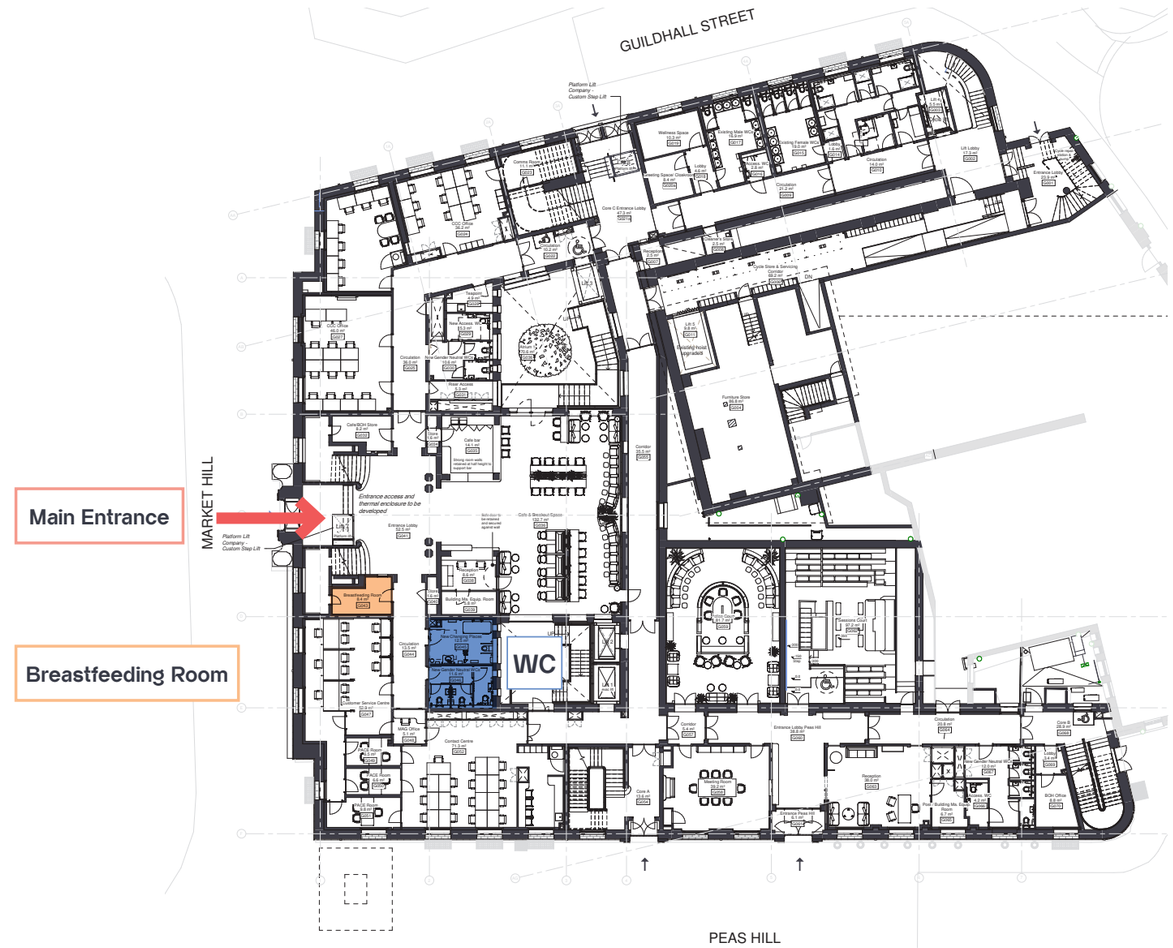
Proposed public toilets and Changing Places Toilet

Breastfeeding Room

A publicly accessible private room for parents to use is being provided on the ground floor of the Guildhall. The room will provide a private, comfortable and calm space to help parents.

Sometimes known as a mothering, lactation or nursing room if will provide a comfortable and hygienic environment for mothers to maintain their breastfeeding routine whilst working or visiting a public space.

Baby changing facilities will be provided within the space.



Public Toilets and Changing Places Toilet

Breastfeeding Room

4.5 Council Offices
Work Place Settings

150 Worksettings plus CSC

Cambridge City Council require 150 worksettings to be located in the Guildhall, plus 15 CSC staff. A range of worksetting will be provided, with detailed furniture choices made during RIBA Stage 4 & 5.

The diagrams on the right explain how the worksettings are spread across the Guildhall.

Long term worksetting

A worksetting designed for users to be based at for long portions of their day, typically provided with a 1200mm wide desk, office chair and single wide-screen curved monitor.

Short term worksetting

A worksetting designed for users to be based at for a shorter period of time, perhaps between meetings or if they have come into the Guildhall for a short period of time whilst not out in the community.

It is expected that users will use their laptop and wifi in these settings.

These worksettings can also be utilised for informal catchups/ 1-1 discussions.

Council Chamber & Gallery

With the proposed changes to the Council Chamber there is opportunity for informal use of the space - when not being used for meetings or other functions. If there were a particular need for additional worksettings the proposed Council Chamber could accommodate 40 desks easily.

Summary

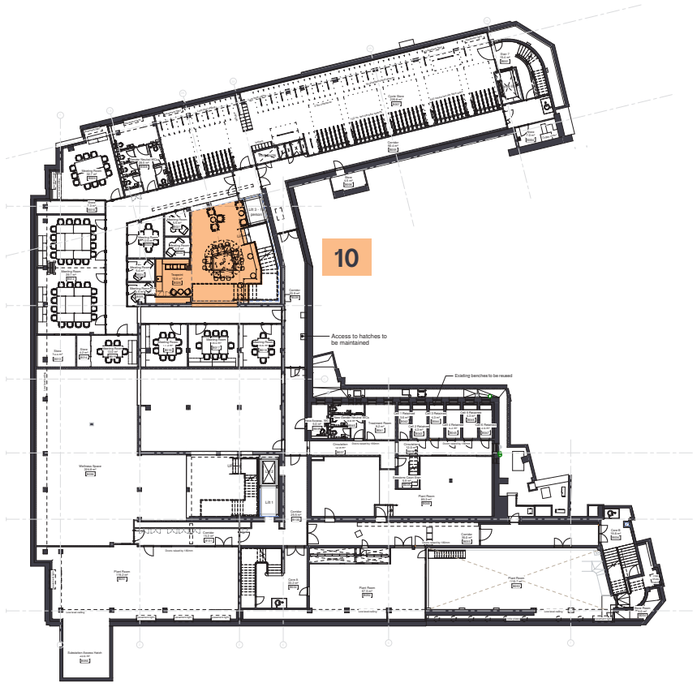
Long Term Worksettings - 107

Short Term Worksettings - 44

Customer Service Centre - 15

Total = 166*

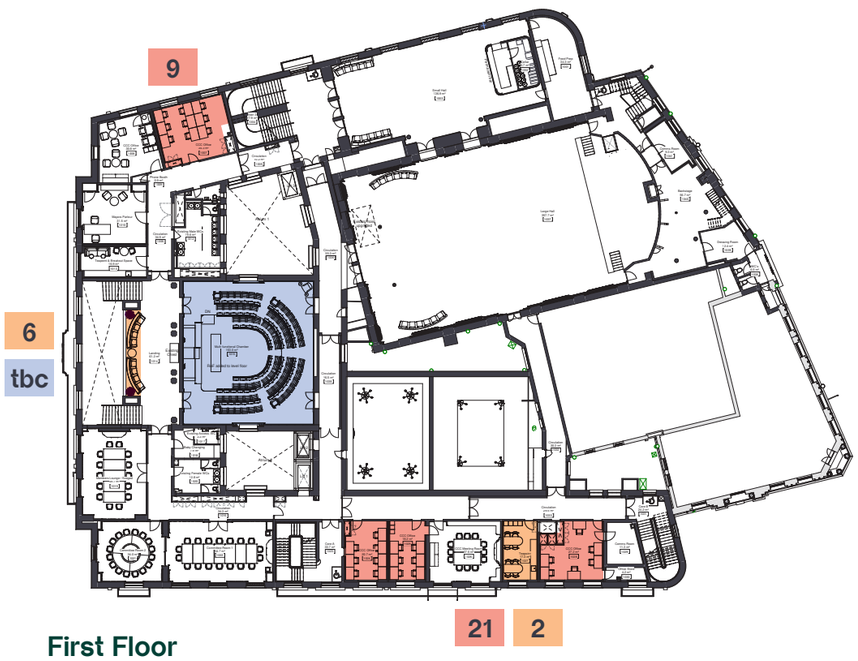
*This does not include any use of meetings rooms or the Council Chamber.



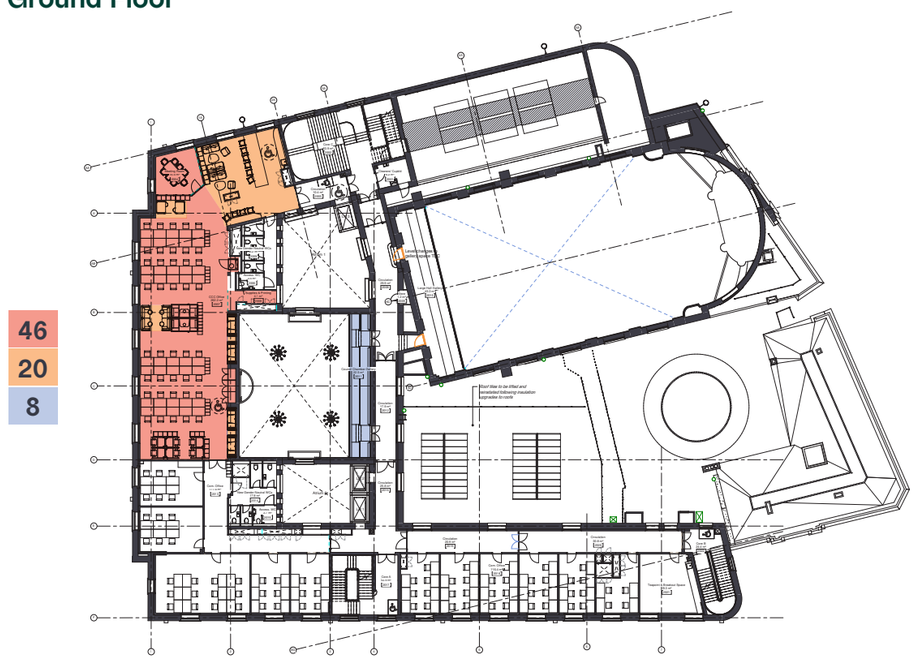
Basement



Ground Floor



First Floor



Second Floor

4.5 Council Offices
Meeting Rooms

Meeting Rooms and Collaboration Space

To meet the requirements of Cambridge City Council a range of meeting room sizes are required across the Guildhall. Following design development the decision was made to focus new meeting room provision at basement level. The utilisation of space in this manner means staff are generally working in above ground spaces, with greater access to natural daylight, and spending less time at basement level.

The following meeting rooms are provided within the Guildhall;

Basement

- 4no. 2 Person meeting rooms
- 3no. 6 Person meeting rooms
- 2no. 8 Person meeting rooms
- 1no. 14 Person meeting room
- 2no. 16 Person meeting rooms - which can be transformed into one large room.

Ground Floor

- 3no. Customer Service Centre interview rooms
- 3no. 1 person 'Zoom' Booths

First Floor

- 1no. 12 Person meeting room
- Committee Room 1 - 18-20 people
- Committee Room 2 - 16-18 people
- Szeged Room - 14 people

Second Floor

- 1no 8 Person meeting room
- 1no. 1 Person 'Zoom' Booth
- 2no. 2 Person meeting booths

Comparison to Existing Provision

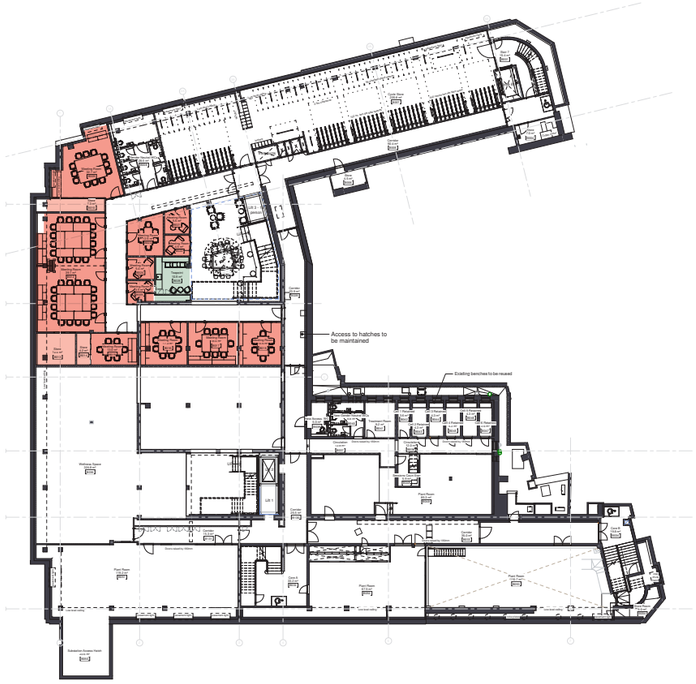
Within Mandela House there are a range of different sized meetings rooms, totalling 91 seats. Current data shows a 41% utilisation rate. The primary meeting rooms in the Guildhall are the Committee Rooms, Szeged Room and Council Chamber.

Newly created meeting rooms in the Guildhall provides 108 seats. We are also proposing to provide 4 additional spaces in the Szeged Room and converting the Chief Executives Office into a 12 person meeting room.

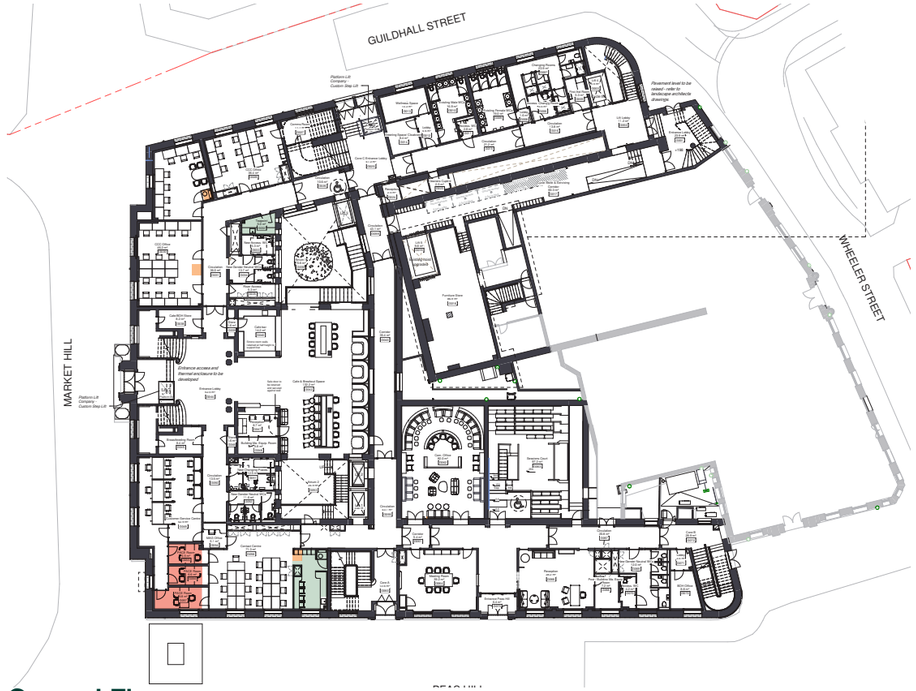
The proposed flexible use of the Council Chamber will also improve the meeting room offer.

Not factoring informal meeting spaces into the calculations the proposals deliver 21 additional seats over the combined provision of Guildhall and Mandela House.

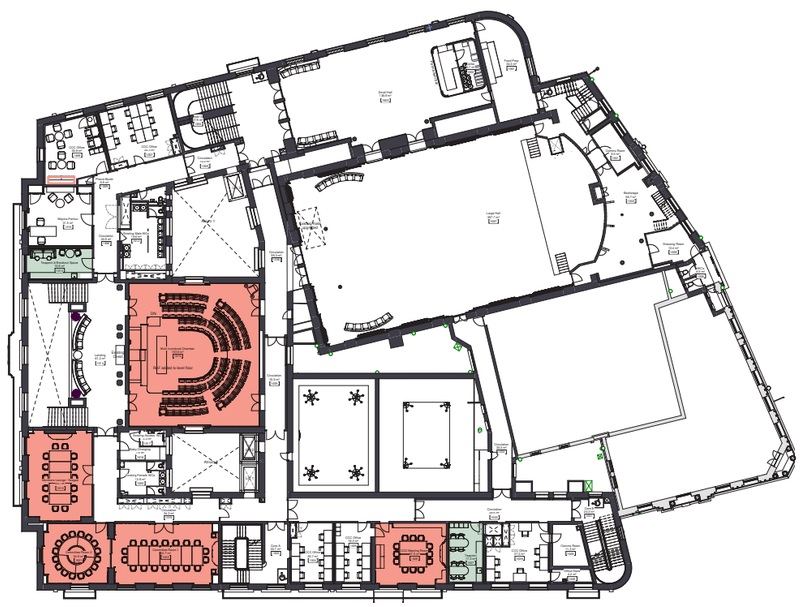
Meeting Room
Meeting Room Store
Meeting 'Zoom' Booth
Teapoint



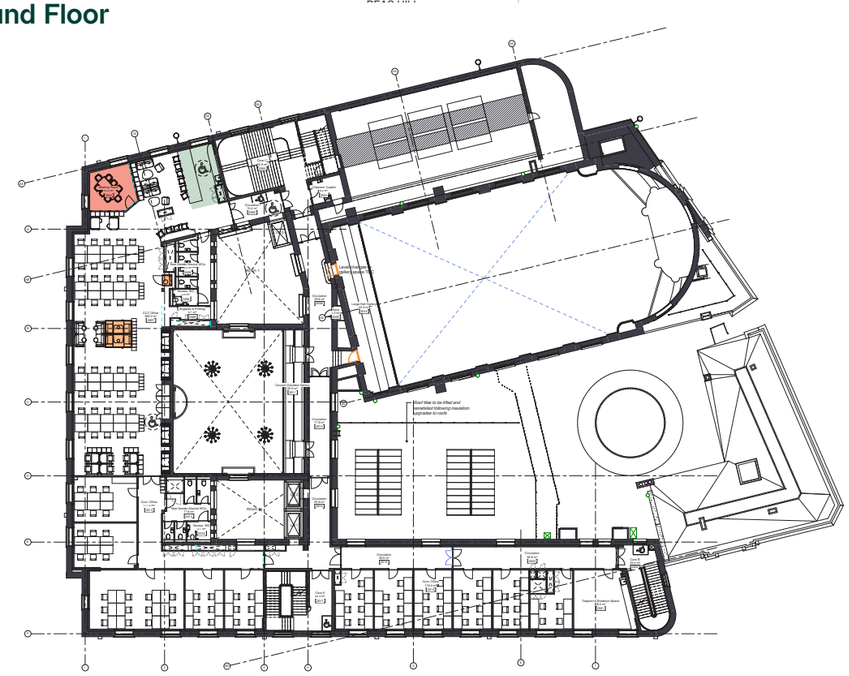
Basement



Ground Floor



First Floor



Second Floor