



7 Interior Design

7.2 Civic / Community Functions

7.2.2 Council Chamber

Heritage Significance

The existing council chamber is a generous space, assessed as ‘high significance’ in the Montagu Evans Heritage Report

Proposal

The council chamber is the democratic heart of the borough. But there are only a limited numbers of council meetings per year, therefore it is proposed the space be flexible to allow a variety of other activities to take place. Flexibility is to be achieved, without significant compromise of the primary democratic function through the use of appropriate furniture and flexible IT/AV systems.

Functions

Primary function:

- Council meetings

Potential Secondary Functions:

- Events (e.g. pop-up cinema, music events)
- Lectures and conferences
- Special ceremonies

Proposed Refurbishment Works:

- Repair, refurbishment of existing wall finishes including acoustic timber panels, leather wall and stone
- Refurbishment of gallery seats
- Ceiling to be rebuilt as per original design;
- New carpet with bespoke design
- New loose furniture
- Curtains

Users and Accessibility

The lower level of the council chamber is fully accessible to wheelchair users. However, the Public Gallery would require substantial structural changes to allow level access, which would be detrimental to the heritage value. LBH is committed to providing public access to the lower level.

Furniture

New loose furniture will provide a variety of work-settings. Possible layouts are indicated in the brief document ‘Furniture Tests’ - see diagram right.

MEP

Upgrade of heating, cooling, ventilation, IT and AV systems.
Re-uses existing risers and voids for distribution
Re-use of existing built-in lighting - incorporating new fittings

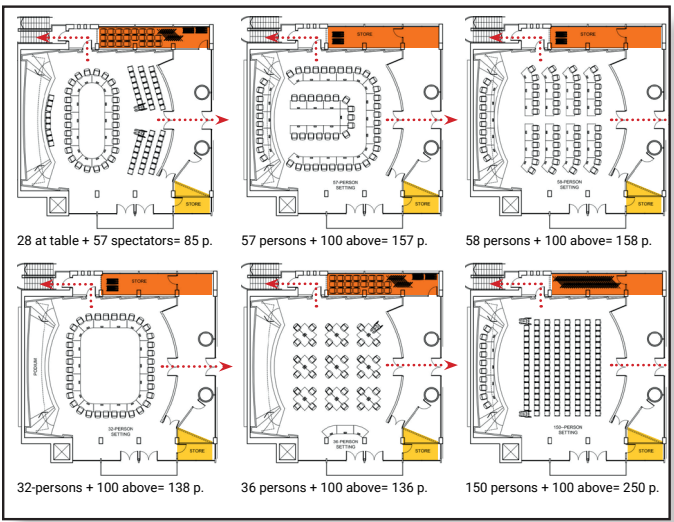
Further Information

Refer to section 7.4 for a detailed scope of refurbishment works

Seating figures for main function layout		
	Seats in gallery	approx. 100
	Seats in ground floor	60
	Seats in podium	7
	Disabled seats	3

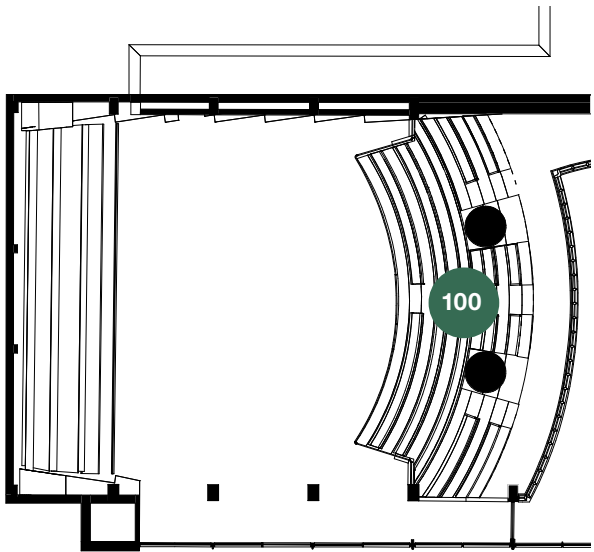
Key:

 Circulation

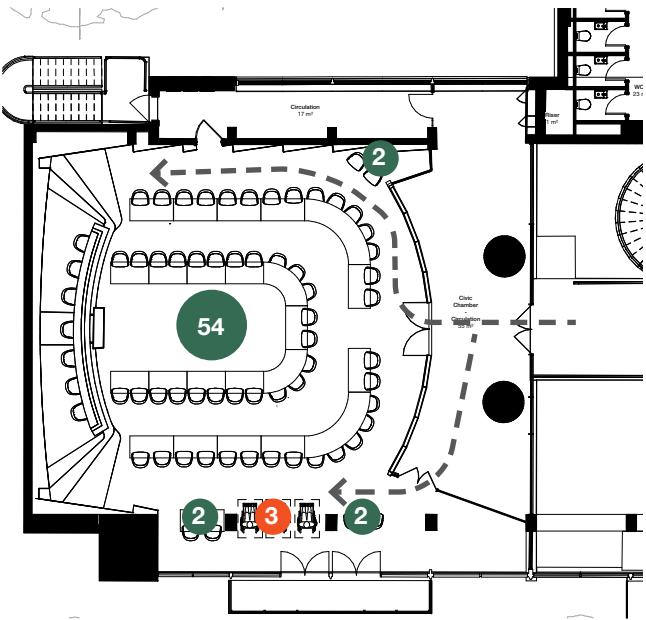


Furniture Tests (please refer to technical brief)

Plan View



Gallery view - 2nd Floor



Council chamber main function layout - 1st Floor

Existing Photos



Ground Floor pre-strip out (top) and gallery post-strip out (bottom)

Architectural Precedent



Corby Cube

New-built Council Chamber with flexible furniture setting and a feature lighting.