

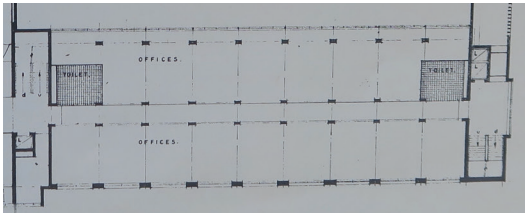
7 Interior Design

7.3 North Wing Workspace

7.3.1 Original Design

Original design.

The structural design of the office space in the north wing of the Civic Centre was specifically designed to allow a flexible approach to the partitions -see plan below published in Official Architect and Planning June 1958 which shows the north wing with no partitioning.



Original Ground Floor Plan Drawing

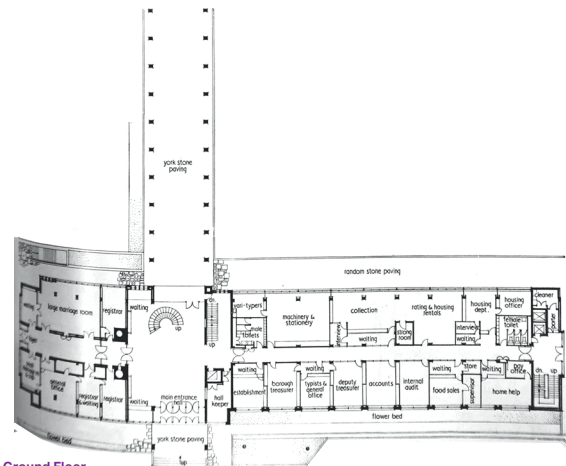
The original fit-out of the offices incorporated a central corridor running north/south and cellular space to the west and east. The corridor was constructed with plastered partitions interspersed with timber and glazed partitions. All of the glazed partitions have subsequently been infilled. The location of partitions generally has been altered over time - (see historical modifications drawing right). In some cases the subdivision has reduced the visual permeability of the building, which as a key aspect of the design intent, has detracted from its significance.

Some offices retain their original cupboard joinery (see right) - these areas were assessed by Montagu Evans to be of medium significance, whereas the remainder of the space is assessed as low significance

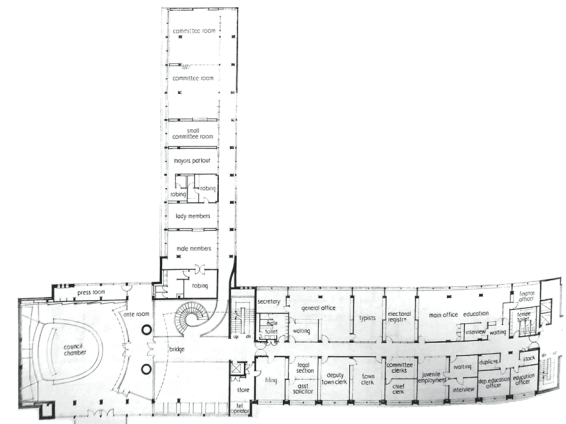
The other large room is the former staff canteen on the third floor, which is subdivided from the kitchen by a counter, with wooden shutters, which are not original. The former canteen is altered and is of low significance, so changes to the partitions would be less sensitive than in the public civic parts of the building.



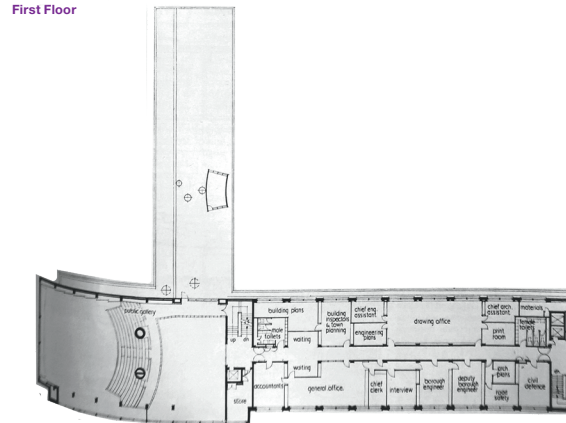
Historic Floor Plans
The Architect & Surveyor - 1958



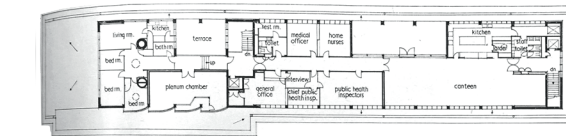
Ground Floor



First Floor

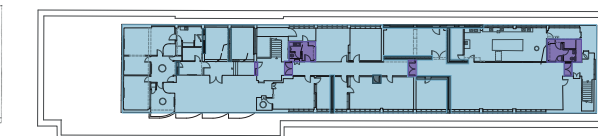
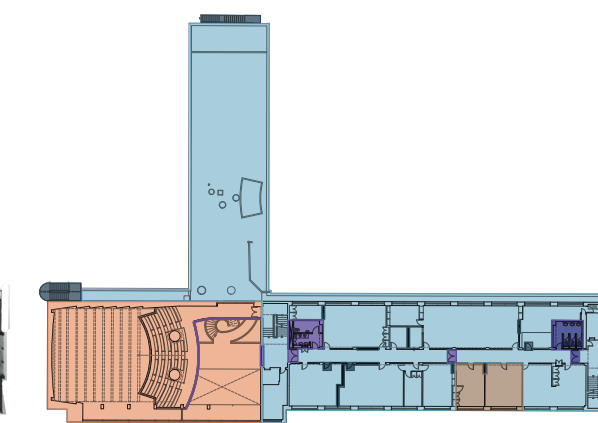
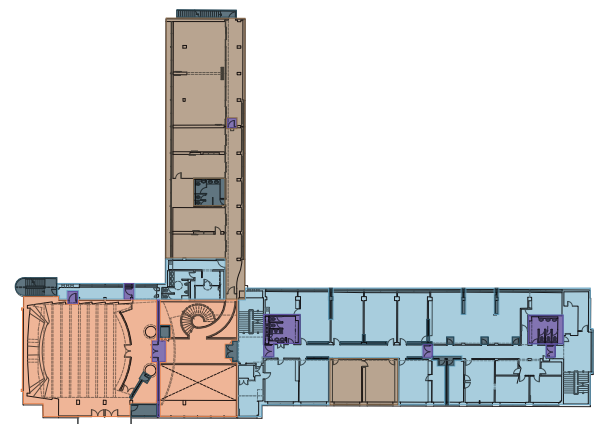
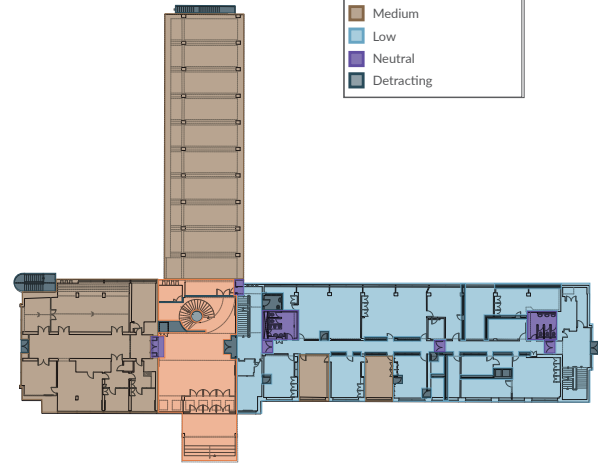


Second Floor



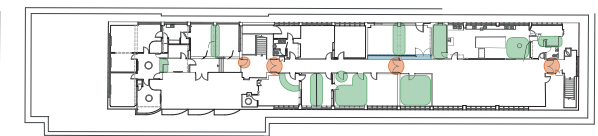
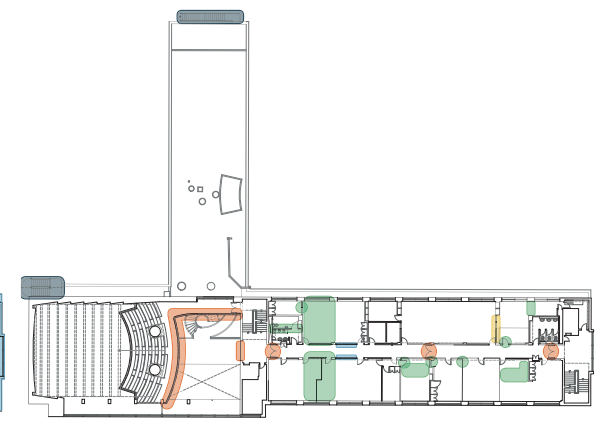
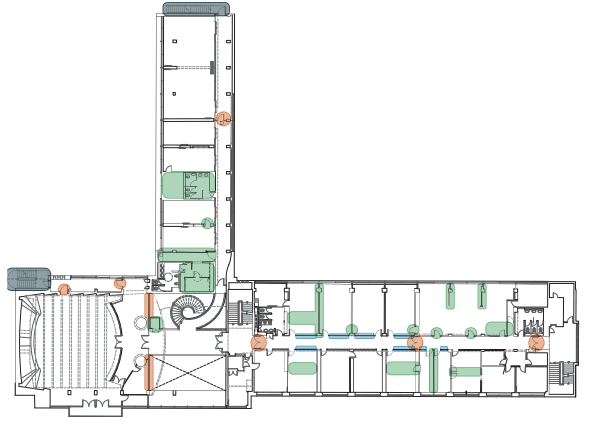
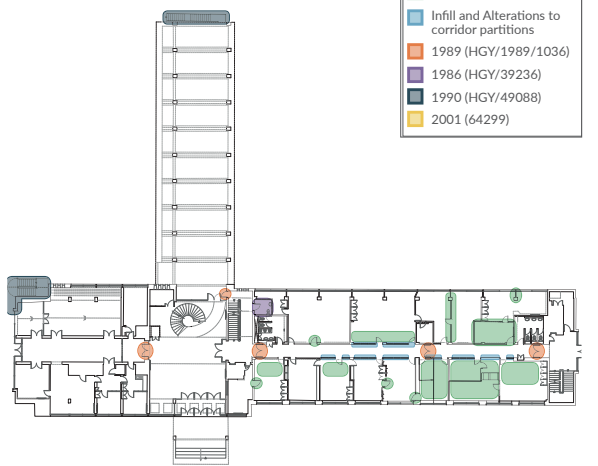
Third Floor (Attic)

Areas of Historical Significance Plans
Montagu Evans



KEY	
High	Medium
Low	Neutral
Detracting	

Historical Alterations Plans
Montagu Evans



KEY	
Post 1958 Alterations	Infill and Alterations to corridor partitions
1989 (HGY/1989/1036)	1986 (HGY/39236)
1990 (HGY/49088)	2001 (64299)

7 Interior Design

7.3 North Wing Workspace

7.3.2 The need for change

The need for change

The refurbished civic centre has to provide adequate and appropriate office space for council staff. It is critical to the success of the project that sufficient work settings are provided on site to accommodate the council workforce. This has led the design team to propose an open plan arrangement in the north wing office space.

Through the course of the planning process there has been pressure to reduce the quantity of new floorspace provided on site in the extensions - to avoid harm to the setting of the listed buildings. But this has increased pressure to provide the most efficient office space in the existing buildings. Open plan space is inherently more efficient than cellular space. The design team has tested alternative layouts - open plan and cellular - as shown in the diagrams right. The cellular arrangement accommodates approximately 30 less workspaces on each floor - a total of over 100 less workstations when applied to all floors.

Open plan space is also a fundamental part of the council's brief in order to benefit from the following pages

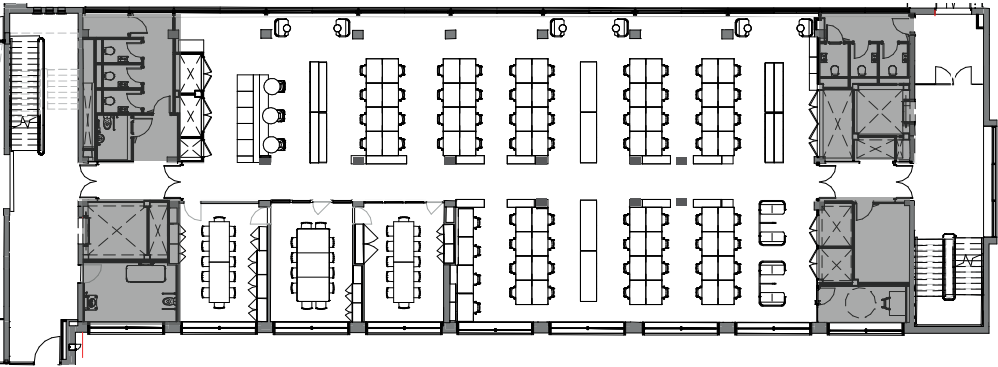
Retention of medium significance spaces

As noted on the previous page, some offices retain original joinery. These are evenly distributed over each floor as indicated on the significance plans. In the proposals overleaf, all these spaces are retained as meeting space..

It was suggested during the pre-application process that all partitions be retained on one floor concentrating the total meeting room requirement in one location. This has been discounted as it would not provide adequate access to the meeting space.



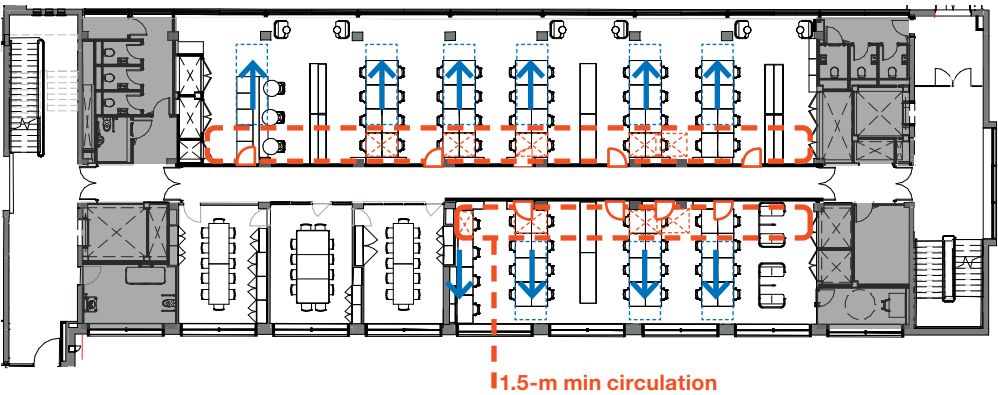
68 formal workstations



Top diagram

The current Proposal consists of creating an open-plan office space by removing all partitions except the areas of high significance, which are to be used as meeting rooms.

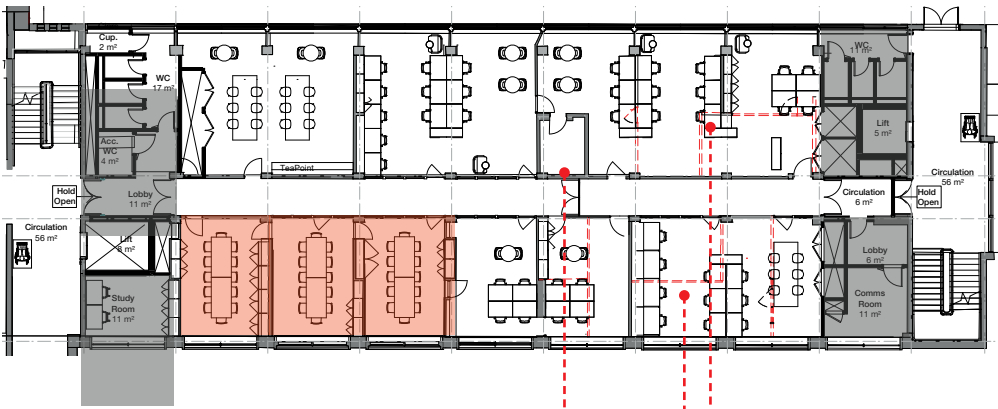
52 (-23%) formal workstations



Middle diagram

Overlay of the existing corridor in the current proposal to demonstrate how many workstations will be lost due to the extra circulation required within each office wing.

42 (-40%) formal workstations



Bottom diagram

Demonstrates the office space's appearance if most of the interior partitions are maintained, creating a segregated, unflexible and inefficient office space.

Some existing cellular spaces are too small and irregular, creating particularly inefficient space planning. In particular, the post-1958 partitions.

7 Interior Design

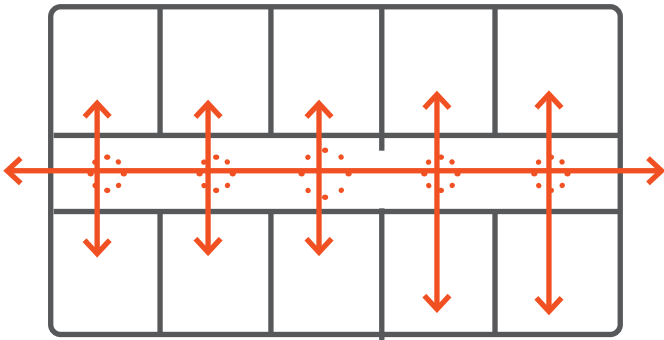
7.3 North Wing Workspace

7.3.2 The need for change

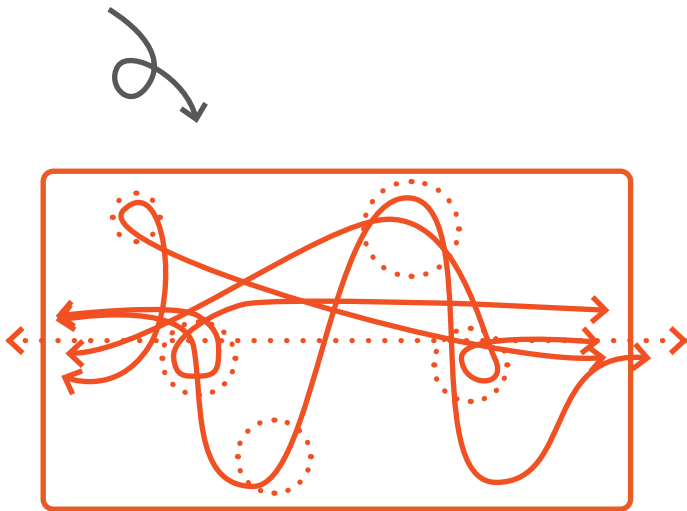
Support Workspace Transformation:

The proposal aims to create a more transparent and collaborative work environment. The new layout will be able to meet contemporary ways of working and remain more resilient to future changes.

The central circulation axis will be kept to honour the existing corridor structure. Bespoke furniture elements will help define this space and help provide some privacy to workspaces near it, whilst improving the everyday user experience - from a long, dark corridor space to an airy open circulation space.



existing condition



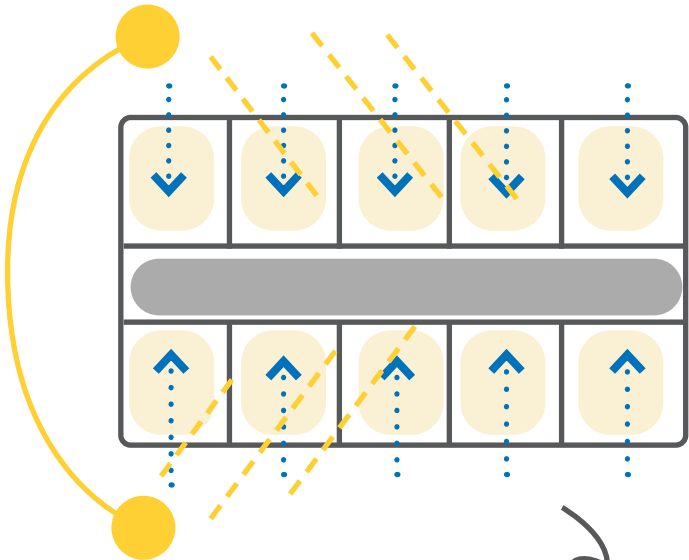
proposal

Promote Well-being

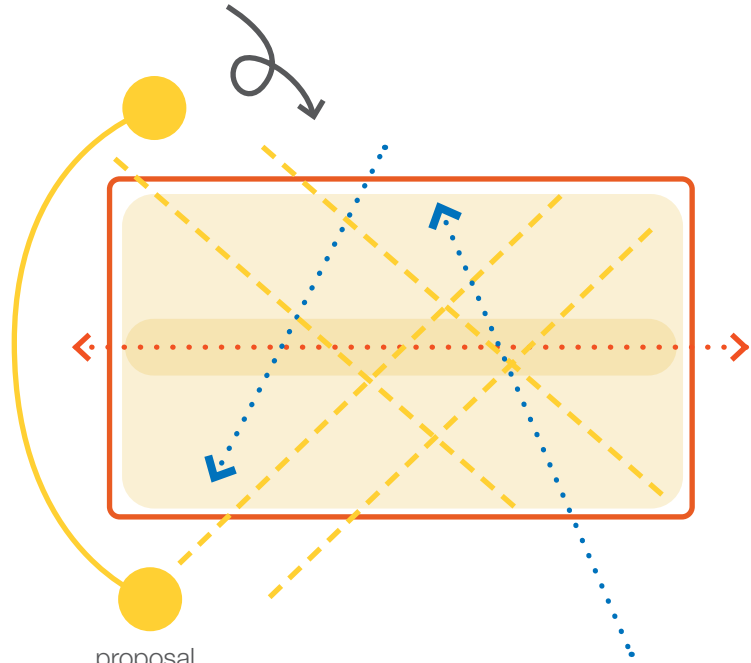
An open-plan office will provide an increased natural daylight by allowing light sources from both orientations. Both wings will be able to enjoy daylight from all times the day. This will significantly improve the existing condition: one-sided cellular spaces served by a corridor with no access to daylight.

It is well known that daylight is crucial to workplace productivity and happiness. It is the council's brief and aspirations to improve and promote staff wellbeing and health.

Removing the partitions will also improve visual permeability and connection with the exterior. This also creates a more friendly environment where staff connects more frankly with the outside.



existing condition



proposal

Key:

- View out
- Daylight
- Central Axis
- Shadow