

E: Council Chamber

Extract below from Historic Building Report;

This is one of the principal spaces on this floor which housed the formal functions of the Council; it is arranged much like a court room with seating arranged in a horseshoe configuration and a gallery at second floor level, all facing the Mayor's rostrum. Materials are good quality but not extravagant. Veneered doors with decorative banding and small vision panels, with later Georgian wired glass. The room is panelled half-height in walnut, with decorative banding around framing the clock behind the Mayor's rostrum, and the upper half is plastered. The ceiling contains a very large roof-light. The seating is arranged in tiers, with integrated writing desks with drawers. The bench seats are Australian walnut and teak and upholstered with leather (which is in a very poor state). The mayoral and council member chairs behind the rostrum are stored elsewhere in the building. Semi-circular-ended table in the centre of the horseshoe is free-standing. Fawn-coloured carpet. The east and west walls contain tall casements, framed in walnut. Either side, there are large 'Asbestonite' acoustic panels, covered in woven fabric, not the original design. There is a narrow gallery at second floor level, set against the south wall. The walls beneath the gallery are faced in cork. Globe pendants, though globe sconces may be later. There are photographs of the Council Chamber on completion in the 1930s in the Photograph Collection of the British Architectural Library at the Royal Institute of British Architects (shown right)

The lobbies to Council Chamber have Veneered doors with decorative banding and small vision panels, with Georgian wired glass. On the landing side, these two doors framed by stone and mosaic. Veneered panelled walls up to frieze height and painted plaster above. Small steel casements with timber reveals. Other features include radiator dials and switch plates.



Council Chamber

Summary; The council chamber is an integral part of the history of the Town Hall as it to be restored and refurbished to its original condition and layout. With modern introductions kept to a minimum and introduced where necessary for performance properties of the room.

Furniture; The furniture original leather is heavily worn and is to be reupholstered using an approved leather. The timber shows signs of wear but is in a general good condition and is to be refurbished and repaired prior to reinstatement.

Walls; The walls are clad with walnut veneer panels which are in relatively good condition and are to be lightly refurbished as the already approved sample. The back wall is a cork wall, which shows some sign of wear including a central crack from the building deflection over time, the cork its to remain in-situ and repaired and refurbished. An acoustic fabric lines sections of the wall, this is missing in sections, it has been agreed for a full replacement with a matching approved sample.

Windows; The existing crittall windows are to be refurbished and repaired. Additional internal secondary glazing is to be introduced to improve the acoustic performances of the space. The sample of which has been approved prior to main insulation by LBH and HE, with colour chosen to blend with the timber surround.

Detailed method statements have been submitted for the refurbishments of different architectural items. Referenced on the drawings with relevant codes to below drawings as below;

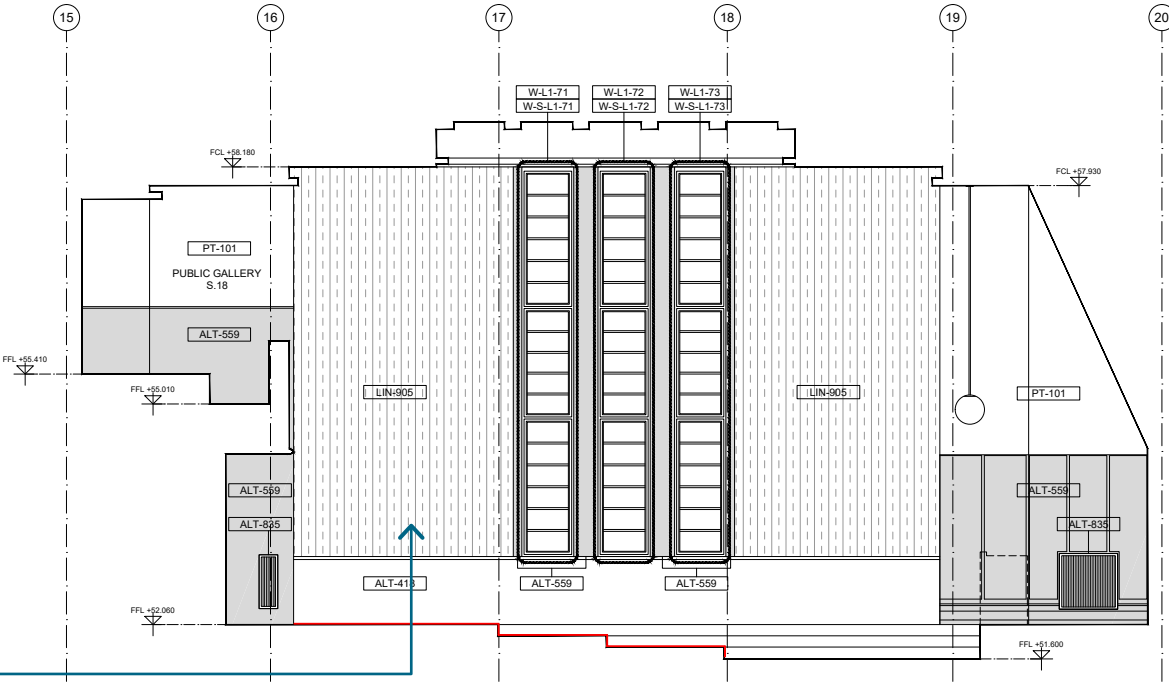
- ALT-418 Repairs to natural stone wall lining
- ALT-515 Repairs to cork wall surface
- ALT-551 Refurbishment of veneered and hardwood Joinery
- ALT-559 Refurbishment of veneered wall lining
- ALT-735 & ALT 736 Refurbishment of existing Seating
- ALT-788 Refurbishment of original clock
- ALT-835 Refurbishment and re-use of timber wall grilles
- LIN-905 Replacement replica tapestries with acoustic absorption

ALT-559 Refurbishment of veneered wall lining

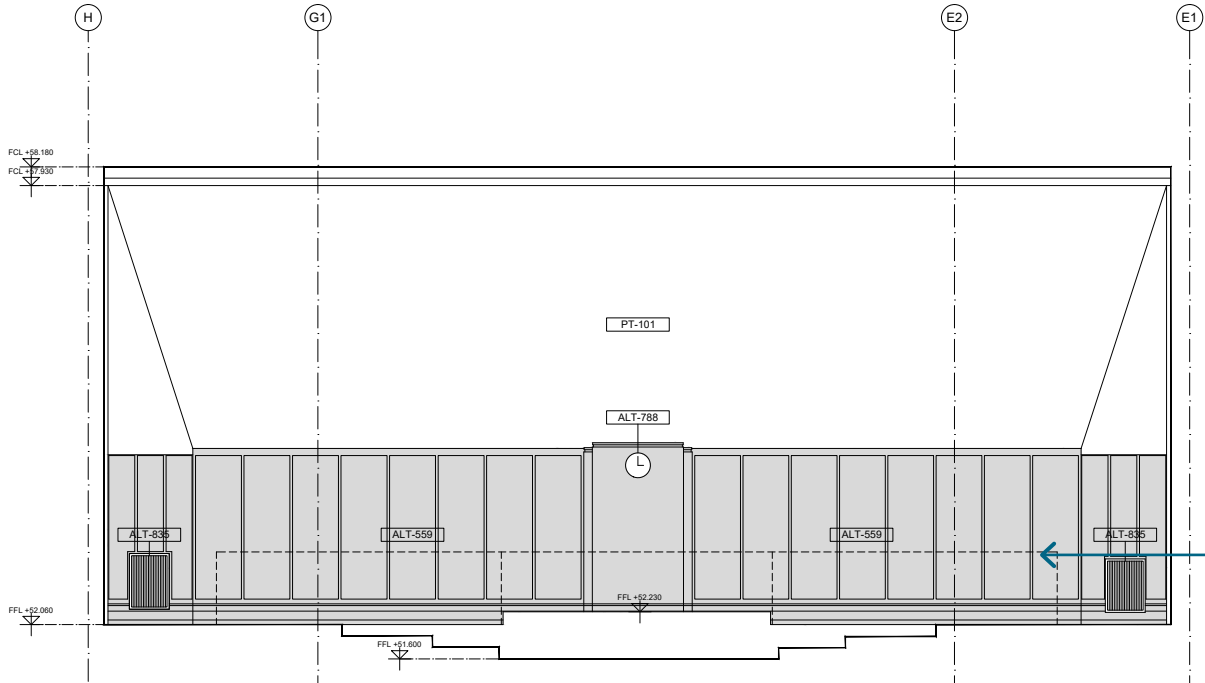
Exiting walnut veneer panelling is in good condition and is to be lightly refurbished to keep aged look as the approved sample on site with HE and LBH.

LIN-905 Replacement replica tapestries with acoustic absorption

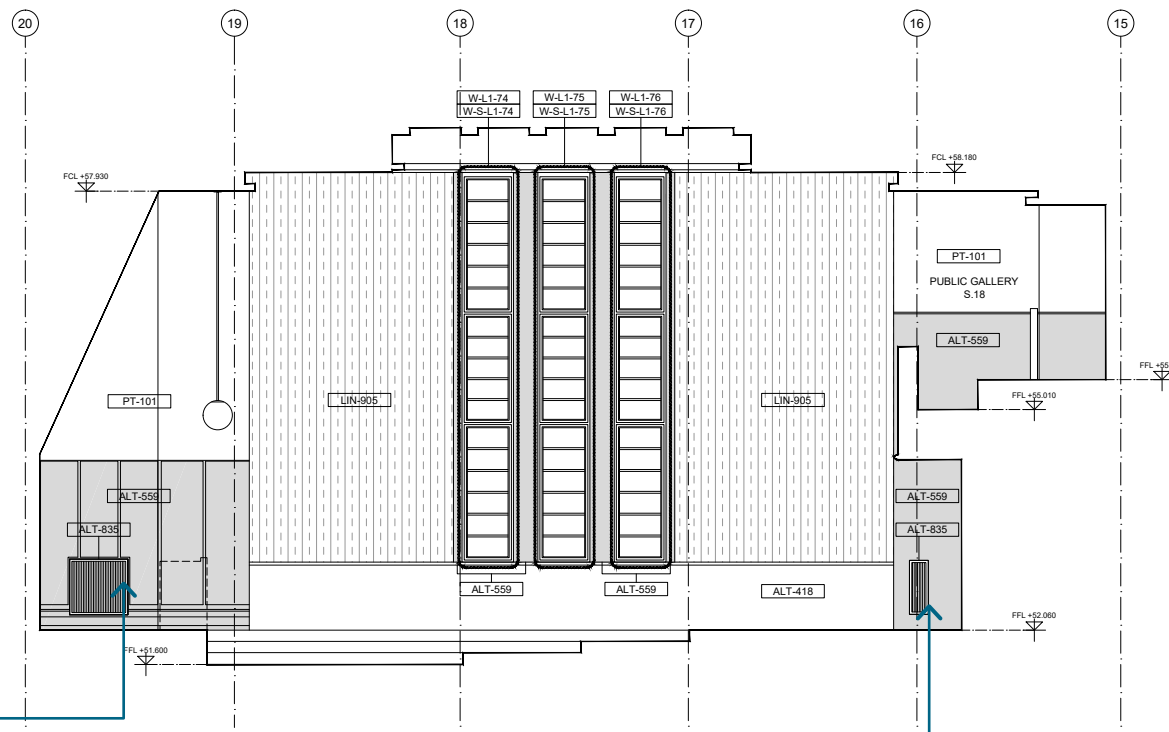
Existing tapestry shown left - replaced with new tapestry by Hines of Oxford as approved on site with LBH and EH



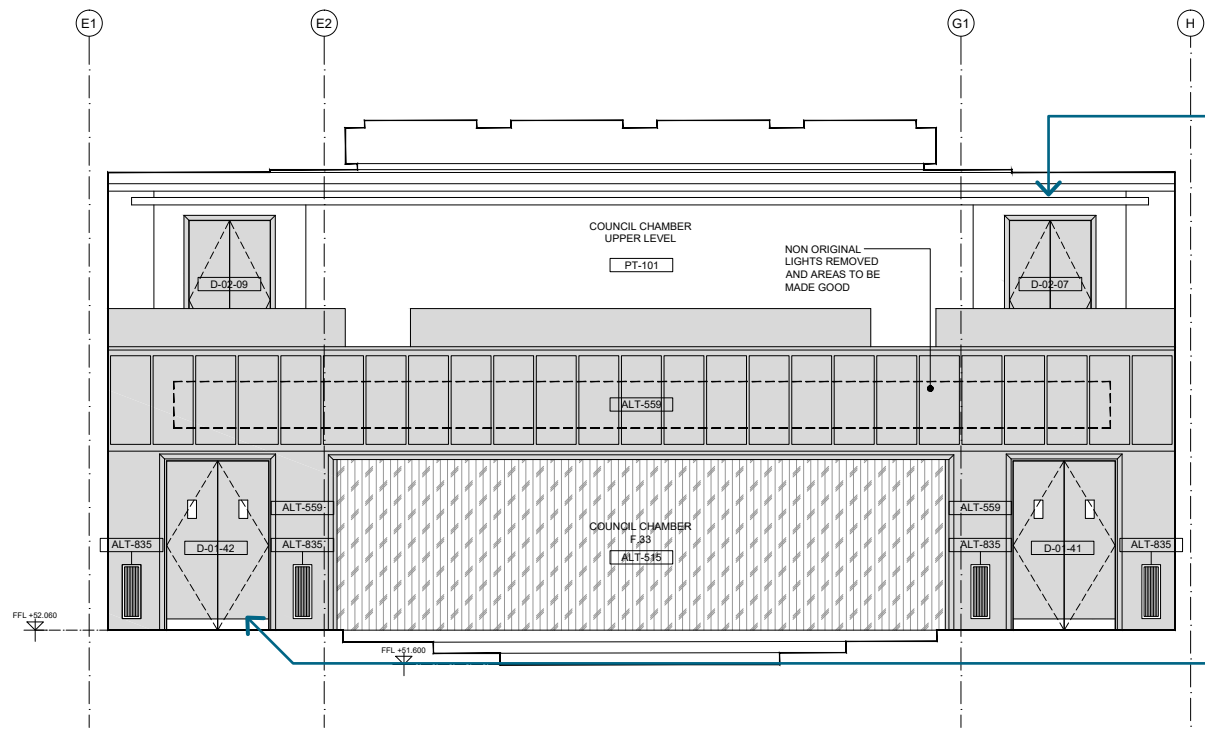
A INTERNAL ELEVATION A
SCALE 1:50 @ A1



B INTERNAL ELEVATION B
SCALE 1:50 @ A1



C INTERNAL ELEVATION C
SCALE 1:50 @ A1



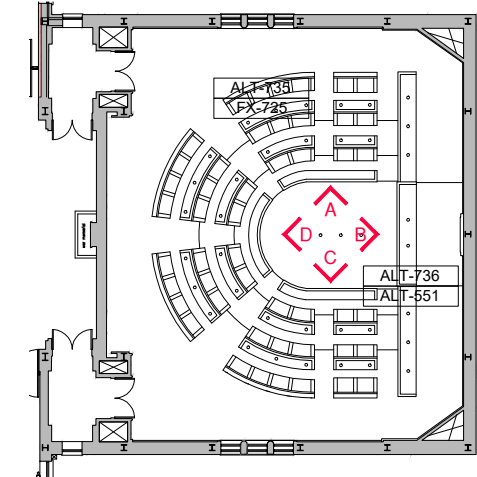
D INTERNAL ELEVATION D
SCALE 1:50 @ A1

ALT-835 Refurbishment and re-use of timber wall grilles

New AHU from roof have been installed that reuse the existing timber wall ventilation grilles to allow for the ventilation and heating of the space. Grilles are to be repaired and refurbished to the same quality as panelling.



KEYPLAN - COUNCIL CHAMBER



Existing top floor council chamber door has been painted on the corridor side, as part of the refurbishment of the door, the paint is to be removed and door refurbished back to original finish as visible on the chamber side.



Similarly ground floor doors have been painted on the inside - with existing finish visible from cracking of new finishes. Due to site damage some existing doors are to be replaced with replicas. With matching existing doors used as reference for finish.

ALT-515 Refurbishment of Cork Walls

Existing cork wall showing some sign of cracking down the middle assumed from long term deflection. Lose cork is to be re-adhered and light polishing and refurbishment.



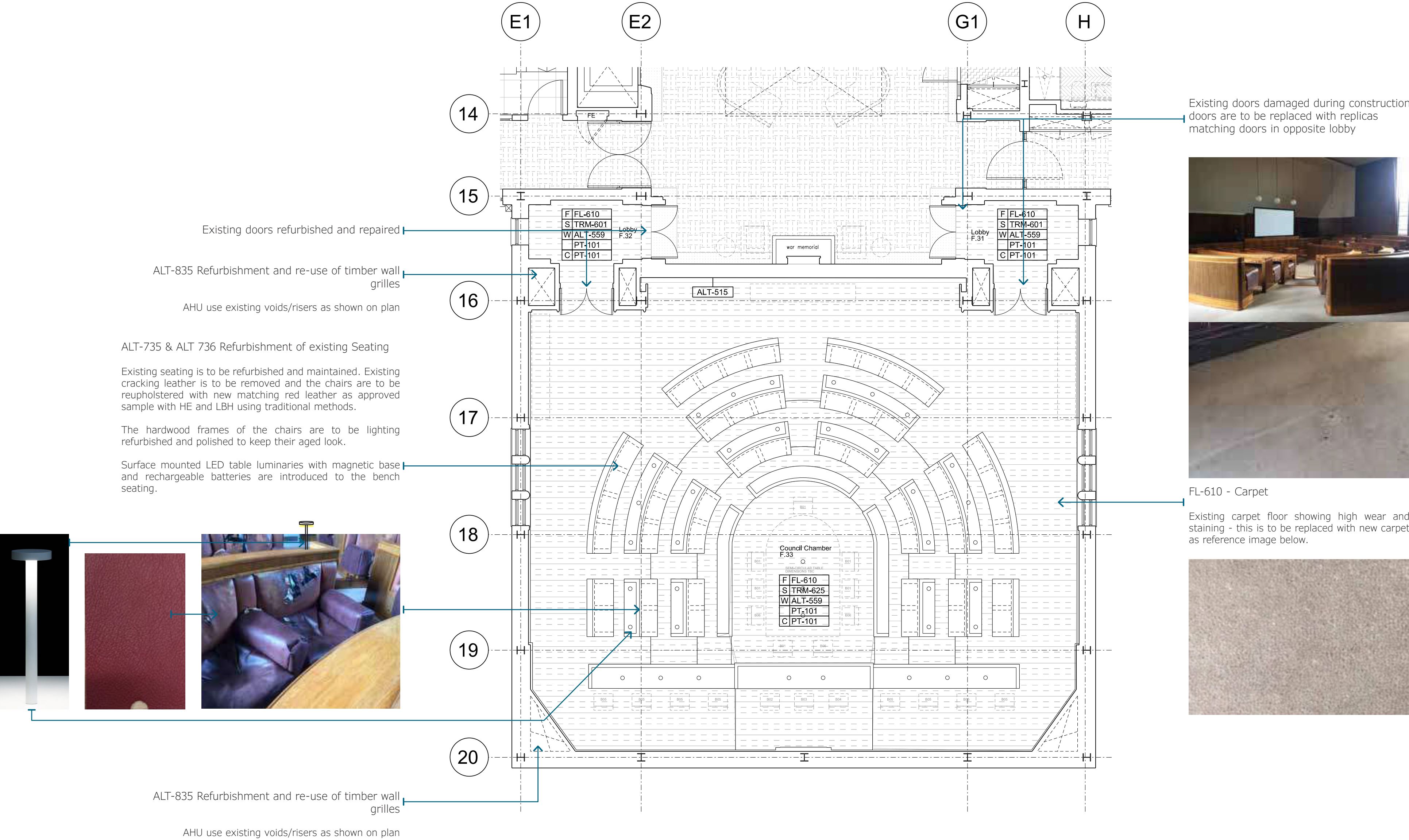
Council Chamber

Summary; The general arrangement plan of the Council Chamber is set around the positioning of its furniture. With the central Mayors Rosturm the focal point and a curved stepped flooring to form a stepped gallery towards the centre focal point. All of which is to be retained and existing setting out matched.

Floor Finishes; Existing flooring within the Council Chamber is carpet throughout, which shows sign of long term ware and staining. New carpet is to be introduced as a replacement matching the existing colour and style of the existing carpet.

Detailed method statements have been submitted for the refurbishments of different architectural items. Referenced on the drawings with relevant codes to below drawings as below;

- ALT-418 Repairs to natural stone wall lining
- ALT-515 Repairs to cork wall surface
- ALT-559 Refurbishment of veneered wall lining



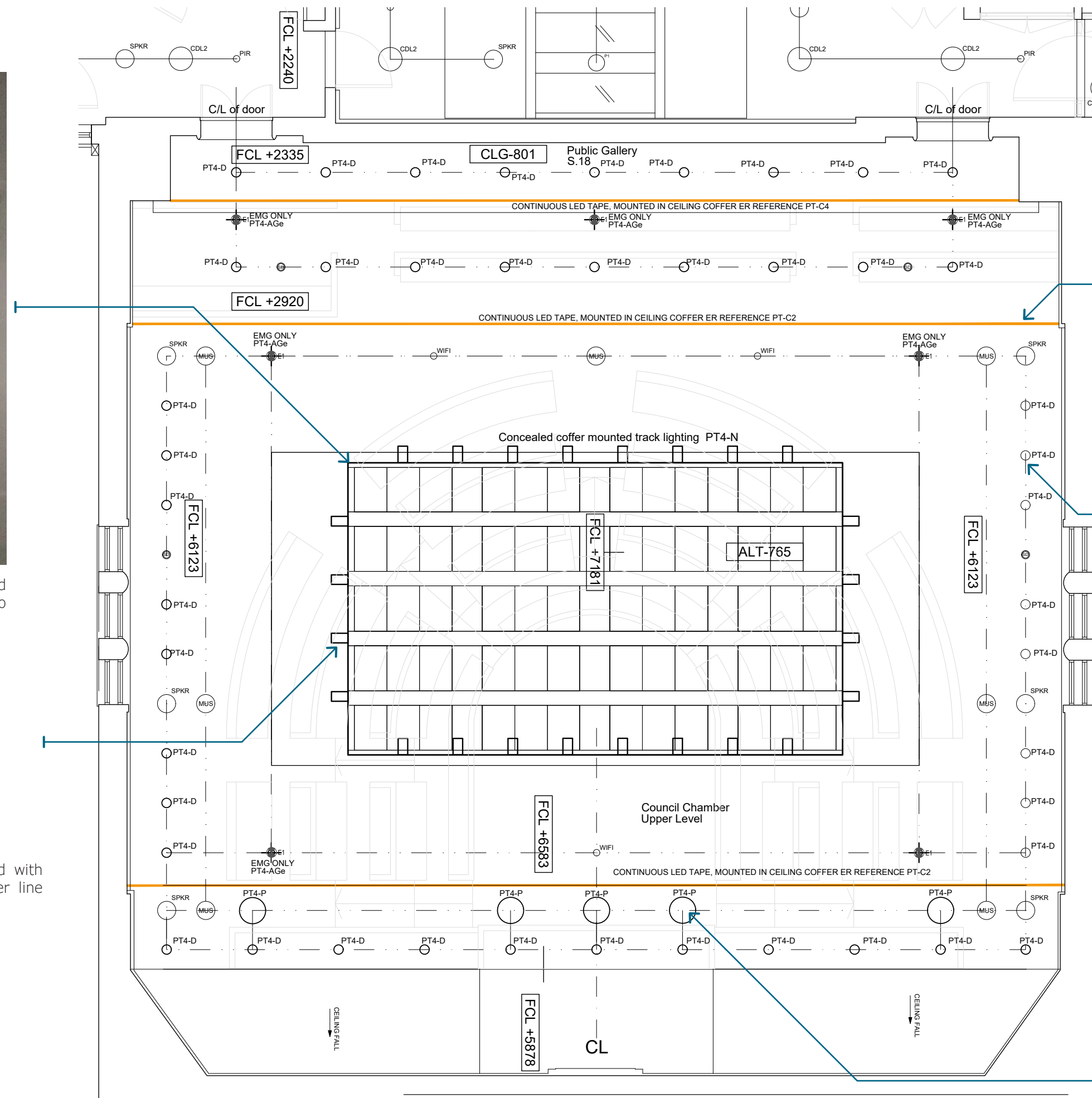
Council Chamber

Ceilings; The ceiling finish in the main area is in good condition, and is to be lightly refurbished as required and a new layer of paint. With existing coffer details and setting out to be retained.

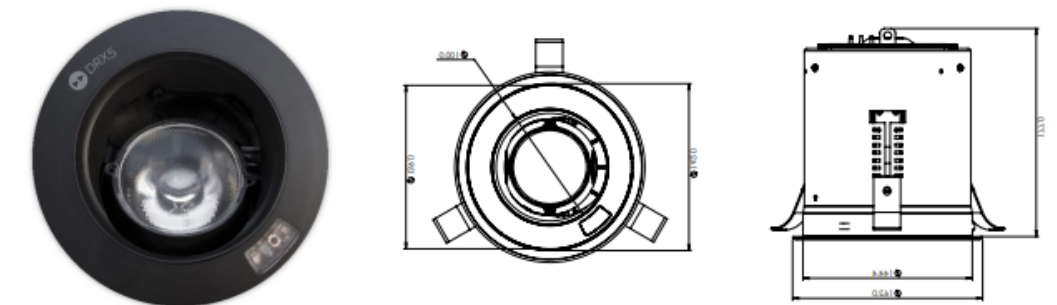
Lighting; An existing roof light sits above the centre of the space, a key feature of the ceiling with a surrounding coffer detail. Roof lights are to be refurbished, with new LED lights above to create LED light panels, discrete spot lights are to be installed within the coffer around the edge of the light panels. Additional coffers are to have a hidden installed LED strip lighting. Existing globe long drop pendants are to be refurbished and relamped with LED fittings.

Detailed method statements have been submitted for the refurbishments of different architectural items. Referenced on the drawings with relevant codes to below drawings as below;

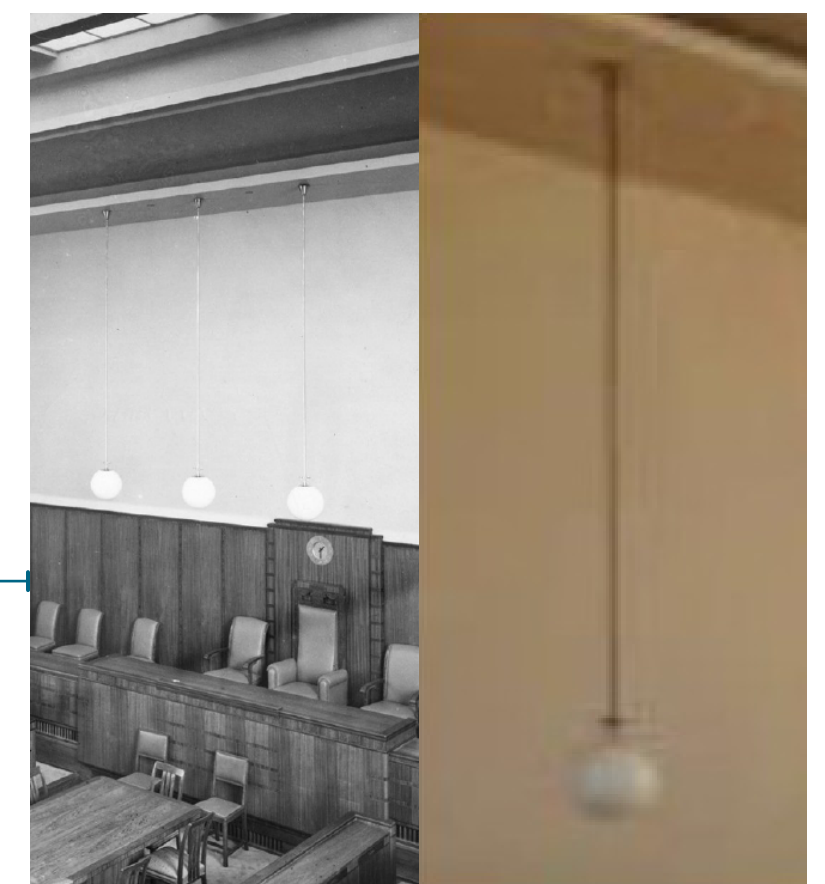
ALT-761, ALT-762 and ALT-765; Plasterboard Ceiling Refurbishment.
ALT-772 Refurbish Light Fitting



LED strip lighting is to be included within existing coffers.



New downlights are to be installed to allow the room to meet the required modern lux levels, these will have trims to match the white ceiling finish and are seen as a discreet modern addition to the room providing the additional lighting required while not distracting from the heritage aspects of the space.



Existing long drop globe pendant's are to be refurbished and relamped with led fittings as overall heritage lighting strategy and method statement.