

Project Profile

Refurbishment of The Old Council House, Bristol

Client : Bristol City Council
Value : £1.5 million
Our Role: Principal Contractor - Partnering Contract

Working with Bristol City Council and English Heritage we are currently refurbishing one of Bristol's most important city-centre historical buildings to create a Registry Office and function rooms for private hire.

Purpose-designed by prominent architect, Robert Smirke, the "Old Council House", *shown right*, was built between 1823 and 1828 and served as Bristol's council chamber, offices and court until the 1950s. The building continued to serve as a magistrates court until 1996 but has remained empty and unused ever since.



Our Contract Team's knowledge of sensitive refurbishment are preserving the building's unique features. These include a magnificent stair-case with ornate inlaid brass treads; imposing committee rooms, *shown right*, still featuring commissioned furniture; original council chamber with its exquisite domed ceiling, *shown right*; the larger replacement council chamber surrounded by huge paintings of historical importance and the network of below-ground prison-cells used throughout the building's long history as a centre-of-justice.



As a Grade II Listed Building, its historical features, works of art and the in-situ hand-made furniture presents challenges to the Contract Team. Collaboratively, we are proactively addressing problems in meeting current regulations on such issues as providing access for the disabled without affecting the historical importance.



Contact Details



E R Hemmings (Building) Ltd • Dean Road • Yate • Bristol • BS37 5NR

Tel: 01454 884444 • Fax: 01454 884455 • www.erh.co.uk • Email: mail@erh.co.uk