

**NEWPORT CIVIC CENTRE:
NEW CEILING HATCHES IN CORRIDORS
HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT**

Incorporating Design & Access Statement

Newport City Council

09/01/26

Issue 01

Table of Contents

1.0.	Introduction	3
2.0.	The Site: Brief Description, History and Significance	6
3.0.	Schedule of Proposed Works and Justification	9
4.0.	Impact.....	12
5.0.	Consultation	14
6.0.	Policy	14
7.0.	Summary	17
8.0.	Design and Access Statement.....	18
	Appendix A – Cadw's Listing Description	19
	Appendix B – Site Plan	20

1.0. Introduction

1.1. Site Address:

Newport Civic Centre
Godfrey Road
Newport
Gwent
NP20 4UR

- 1.2. Context: Newport Civic Centre is a grade II* listed Art Deco Building (a copy of Cadw's Listing description is attached to this statement at Appendix 'A'). Designed by architect Thomas Cecil Howitt, construction began in 1937 but interrupted by the war and subsequent austerity, the building was not completed until 1964 with the erection of the clock tower and the completion of the central hall as per the original specification. Section 4, a proposed assembly concert hall attached to the west side of the central core, was regrettably never realised.

The building continues to function as the operational headquarters of Newport City Council (NCC), although the police – originally housed within the west wing – vacated about twenty years ago, and the law courts are now only ever used for filming. Consequently, large areas of the building remain unoccupied and, given longstanding financial pressures, there are onerous maintenance issues.

- 1.3. This document sets out a scheme to provide ceiling hatches throughout building corridors, including the formation of new access openings and the replacement of existing hatches, to facilitate fire-stopping and asbestos removal purposes.

Please refer to the attached site plan [Appendix 'B'], which shows the location of the building and its relationship with Newport Crown Court.

- 1.4. It is the applicant's intention to see the building repaired and improved within the next 10 years and brought more fully into beneficial use – a means of securing its future care and sustainability. Fire safety improvements form an integral part of this strategy and will afford greater protection for occupants and the building.

1.5. Surveys

1.5.1. A fire compartmentation survey was carried out by Fire-Rite in 2022 but they were “unable to survey compartment ceilings between floors and above cross corridor doors in the majority of areas due to large void areas with access not permitted.” They also noted: “Access was not permitted through any hatch openings throughout the building due to the presence of asbestos...”

1.5.2. The most recent Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) was completed by Ligta in December 2025 (awaiting report)

Ligta's FRA in 2024 noted:

“The checking of the integrity of fire compartmentation within floor and ceiling voids is outside the scope of this report. Compartmentation will be visually assessed, as far as is possible, in all other accessible areas of the premises.” And it was noted:

“All loft hatches require confirming as being, or upgrading to, 30-minute fire and smoke resisting as well as securing shut.”

1.5.3. Since it is not possible to access the ceiling voids ahead of asbestos removal works, a structural engineer will conduct a watching brief during the cutting of the new openings. They will assess the capacity of the ceilings to accommodate the weight of workers and ensure that trimmers are to standard.

1.6. The applicant understands that cutting new openings into historic ceilings is a major intervention but has decided to proceed for the following reasons:

- a. To comply with their moral and statutory duties in respect of fire safety for occupants and building;
- b. To permit asbestos-removal works ahead of access by fire-stopping personnel;
- c. To provide access for fire-stopping/ compartmentation works; and
- d. To ‘future-proof’ the building by introducing additional access routes for any future service upgrades;

Previous applications for the site

1.7. Previous Listed Building Consents include:

2020 - Works to the clocktower [ref. 20/0311] – **Granted.**

2023 - Intrusive investigation works to access behind stone cladding to determine detailing [ref. 22/1172] – **Granted.**

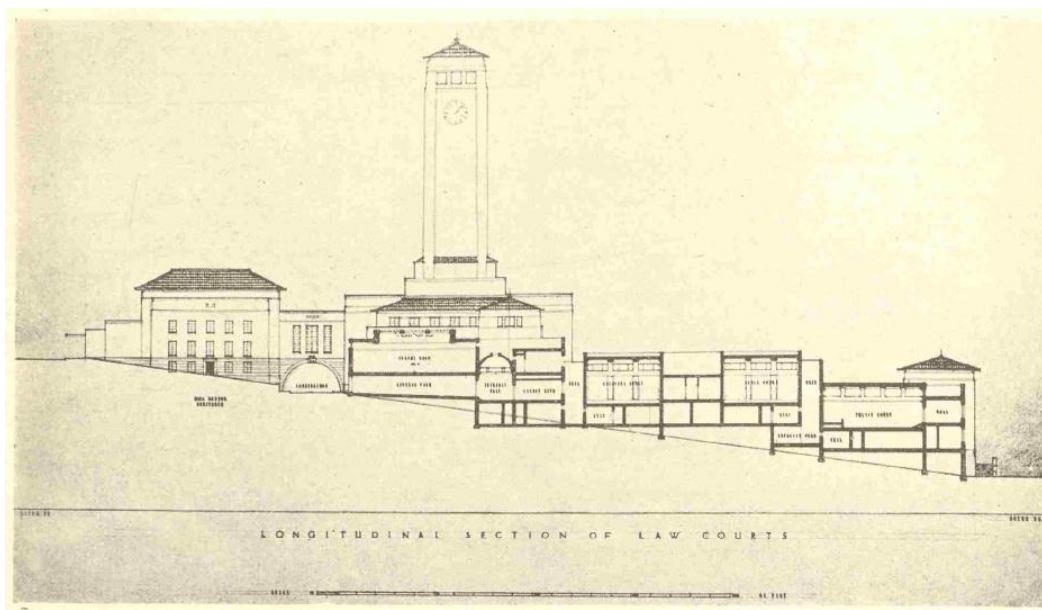
2024 - Minor alterations and repairs to the pyramid rooves over entrances 1, 5 and 6 [ref. 24/0587] – **Granted.**

- 2025 - Reroofing works to a section of the west wing [ref. 25/0126] – **Granted.**
- Installation of 70 no. 500-Watt PV panels, 1 no. 25KW inverter, 35 no. optimisers and accompanying electrical distribution system [ref. 25/1017] – **Awaiting decision.**

Existing information and resources

1.8. Previous Cyson Cymru records of the building comprise:

- Building journals (contemporary to the time of construction);
- Photographs (contemporary to the time of construction);
- the architects' original floor and service plans;
- Detailed drawings for completion of the new central hall (dated 1962);
- 1937 Council minutes;
- 1939 contract documents for the new assembly hall (never completed); and
- Correspondence pertaining to the later construction of the clocktower.



Above: Newport Civic Centre - section from 'The Builder' 1936.

2.0. The Site: Brief Description, History and Significance

- 2.1. The site is bounded by a predominantly residential area to the immediate south, west, north and north-east, with the south-east aspect facing the city centre and Newport (South Wales) railway station further east. The site is at a higher level than the city centre, which falls away to the east and towards the river Usk.



Above: Newport Civic Centre as seen on approach from the south-west (2024).

- 2.2. Newport Civic Centre is of high significance. According to Cadw, the Civic Centre's heritage significance relates to it being "...a well-designed and well-preserved major civic building, designed by a prominent early C20 architect, with a scheme of C20 municipal decoration comparable in Wales only to the murals of Frank Brangwyn at Swansea Guildhall." As such, it was designated Grade II* listed in 1999. Cadw consider Grade II* listed buildings to be "particularly important buildings of more than special interest. These make up about seven per cent of the total number of listed buildings in Wales."
- 2.3. Significance: As described in 'Pevsner Architectural Guides, The Buildings of Wales – Gwent/Monmouthshire, 2000, J. Newman':

CIVIC CENTRE, Godfrey Road. A white presence which dominates distant views of the town from its hillside site. The impulse to build, when the town already contained a town hall and a shire hall, came from the decision in 1936 to move the County Assizes from Monmouth to Newport. The

competition to design the new building held that year was won by T. Cecil Howitt of Nottingham. The sw wing, containing the courts, was built 1937-39, but Howitt's design was fully executed only in 1964, with the completion of the central entrance hall, stair and tower.

The style is ghostly classicism thought appropriate for public architecture of the period, influenced no doubt by Percy Thomas's Swansea Guildhall, but entirely lacking in the panache which infuses that building. The plan consists of a central ceremonial block of two storeys, with a recessed third storey, and a tall, tapering, axial clock tower. To l. and r., stepping down hillside, administration blocks, also two-storeyed. The principal entrance is through a high, plain, round-headed arch on the sw, uphill, side. Similar arches penetrate the downhill ends of the side blocks. All walls are faced with Portland stone. Channelling is introduced on the lower storey of the downhill side of the central block, above which rise the five tall, rectangular windows of the council chamber, their impostes are formed of curious convex fluted panels, the nearest approach to columns anywhere in the building. Elsewhere, the walls are given an equally curious quilted texture. But what goes furthest to undermine the monumentality of the building is the use of shallow pitched roofs everywhere, covered in brown pantiles. Even the pyramidal cap of the clock tower is given this treatment.

The main entrance leads into a square STAIR HALL, lit artificially from a central, square ceiling panel painted pale blue, which is raised above three stepped tiers of coffering. * The stair rises in two easy, straight flights to a broad, glazed balcony on all four sides of the hall. The walls here were painted 1961-4 with a series of eleven rectangular murals by Hans Feibusch, illustrating the history of the county from the first Celtic settlement to the building of the George Street Bridge, opened in 1964. A broadly treated figure style and semi-naturalistic colouring unite the disparate subjects. As a scheme of municipal decoration, it is perhaps unsurpassed in C20 Britain – the murals of Frank Brangwyn in the Guildhall, Swansea, being a special case. (Feibusch's preliminary studies are displayed downstairs, some of them different in composition from the paintings.) – SCULPTURE. Labour, 1929 by David Evans. Small bronze group of two straining miners.

The COUNCIL CHAMBER, at the head of the stair and looking over the town, is flooded by light from its five tall windows. Flat ceiling decorated with large, shallow coffers painted red.

The hillside below the centre block is terraced and planted in a large semicircle.

* It had been intended to use natural lighting.

Significance Values

- Evidential value: **HIGH**
There are numerous sources of information detailing the development of the building and site. Drawings and written records inform the alterations made over time and how the building was used. The earlier elements of the building, including the court rooms and core, are of a higher quality of design and detailing. However, the later post-war work, whilst part of the original design, have been executed to a lesser quality. The different uses of the building can still be read, for example the courtrooms, prison cells, police functions, council chambers and committee rooms.
- Historical value: **MEDIUM/HIGH**
Some evidence exists of the history of the site from the demolition of the houses that once existed there to the construction of the new Civic Centre and its later extensions. However, this information itself does not result in historical value of great significance. The way in which the site does increase in historical value is by association with the royal visits (including the sod cutting of the original build) and through civic events throughout the years.
- Aesthetic value: **MEDIUM/HIGH**
The Art Deco design and its overall size, positioning and orientation add to the aesthetic value of the building. The later 1950s and 1960s fitouts are unfortunate in their detailing which is seen to be of lesser quality and detailing than the original 1930s elements.
- Communal value: **MEDIUM**
Given the purpose of the building in performing civic functions and becoming the focus of major civic events, it is expected that the local community will draw great communal value from the building. This can be seen in the photographs taken during such events where the people of the town (later, city) are seen around the building. These events are specific to Newport rather than of national note. There is an argument that because public access has gradually reduced over the period the communal value of 'special place' will have been reduced.

3.0. Schedule of Proposed Works and Justification

[Proposed works in black text, justification in blue]

Summary of Works:

- Cut 82 new openings in corridors throughout the building (precise locations shown on accompanying plans);
- Install suitable trimmers to all openings;
- Provide temporary coverings to openings until asbestos surveys have been completed/ asbestos removed;
- Install new 2-hour rated ceiling hatches to new openings; and
- Replace existing non-compliant hatches with new 2-hour rated ceiling hatches.

3.1. New ceiling openings:

3.1.1. A licensed asbestos removal company (LARC) is to cut a minimum of two hatches per corridor under fully controlled conditions. Prior to works, a full enclosure (with negative pressure) will be constructed around the work area using 1000-guage polythene sheeting and timber framing.

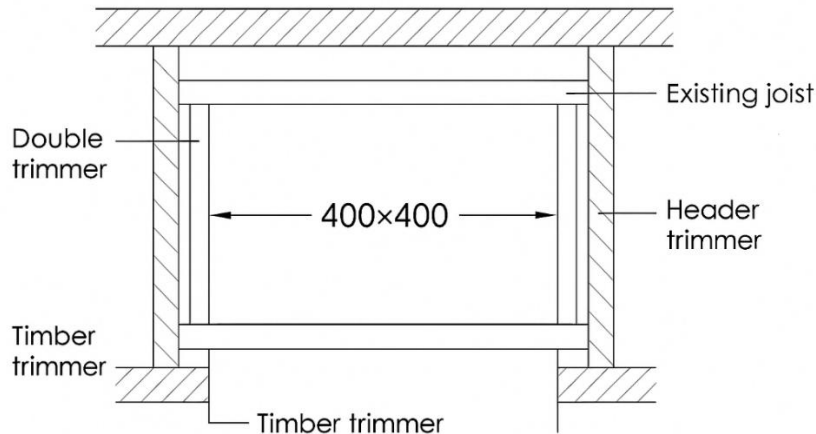
These works are necessary to address two critical compliance and safety issues: asbestos removal and fire-stopping works within the ceiling voids of the corridors. These voids have been flagged as a significant fire risk due to inadequate compartmentation and lack of access for inspection and remedial measures. Whilst most corridors are equipped with ceiling hatches, their number and distribution are insufficient to provide full access to the voids.

The proposed ceilings are of plain plaster finish with no decorative or architectural detailing. They are considered to be of low heritage significance and the openings will be sized to the minimum necessary to facilitate the required works.

The introduction of additional ceiling hatches will also provide long-term benefits beyond the current scope of works. Additional access points will enable future repairs, upgrades, or inspections to be carried out without further disruption to historic fabric, lessening the cumulative harm to the building.

3.2. Installation of trimmers:

- 3.2.1. New ceiling openings will be framed with C16 or C24 grade kiln-dried softwood trimmers, sized to match existing joists (typically 50 × 100 mm). Double trimmers will be installed where joists are cut, fixed using galvanised hangers or structural screws in compliance with BS EN 14545. Joists will be cleanly cut and supported to maintain ceiling level. Fire compartmentation will be preserved by sealing gaps with intumescent materials.



Above: Indicative drawing of proposed trimming works.

This work is essential to ensure the structural integrity of the new opening and the wider ceiling. A structural engineer will attend at project commencement to verify best practice in trimmer installation and to assess the ceiling's load-bearing capacity for future access requirements.

Properly installed trimmers will allow hatch covers to be fitted flush and sealed, maintaining compartmentation and fire-stopping measures within the ceiling void. Without trimmers, gaps or misalignment could occur, undermining fire safety compliance. Since they will be installed within the ceiling void, they will not be visible in the corridor below.

3.3. Temporary coverings to new openings:

- 3.3.1. All new openings will be temporarily sealed using heavy-duty polythene (minimum 1000-gauge) and industrial-grade duct tape.

This work is necessary to prevent the accidental release of asbestos fibres and safeguard health and safety during works. This measure ensures that any identified asbestos remains contained until licensed removal can be undertaken. The sealing process will have a negligible physical impact on the

historic fabric and will be applied with care to avoid damage to surrounding plaster surfaces.

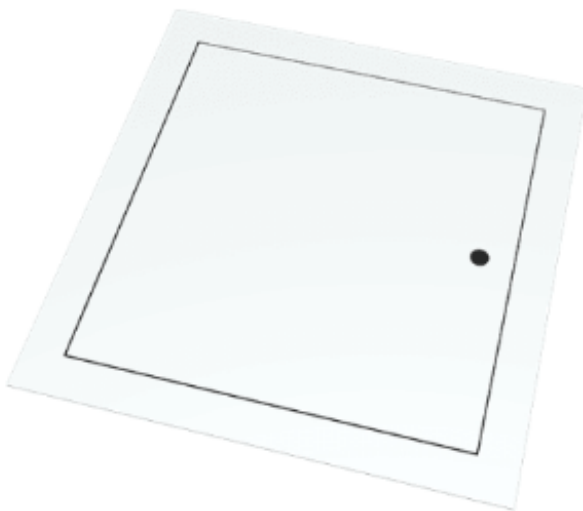
Sealed openings will be clearly labelled with “**Asbestos – Do Not Disturb**” signage to prevent unauthorised access.

3.4. Ceiling hatches to new openings:

3.4.1. New two-hour fire-rated hatches (Palco metal-faced ceiling access panels) will be installed to all openings on completion of asbestos surveys/ removal works.

This work is necessary to maintain fire compartmentation and uphold statutory fire safety requirements following the introduction of ceiling access points. The installation of two-hour fire-rated Palco metal-faced panels will ensure that openings do not compromise the integrity of the ceiling and will prevent the spread of fire between voids and adjacent spaces. The panels will be fitted with care to minimise visual impact and installed in a manner that allows future removal without significant harm to surrounding historic fabric. This will ensure that the intervention remains as reversible as practicable.

Palco access panels have been specifically chosen for their proven fire performance and compliance with statutory requirements. Whilst the panels are visually modern, they will offer a discreet, flush finish that will minimise visual intrusion. Additionally, they will present as an honest, easily readable modern addition rather than a deceptive facsimile of historic fabric, in line with conservation best practice. Their inclusion will provide long-term durability, allowing safe access for maintenance and future works without repeated disturbance to the building.



Above: The Palco 2-hour fire-rated access hatch

3.5. Ceiling hatches to existing openings:

- 3.5.1. Existing non-compliant hatches are to be replaced with two-hour fire-rated hatches (Palco metal-faced ceiling access panels).



Above: Typical images of mismatched and unsympathetic existing hatches

This work is necessary to improve fire compartmentation and uphold statutory fire safety requirements. The existing hatches are non-historic modern additions, which are functional in nature and make no contribution to the significance of the Civic Centre.



Left: CGI mock-up of proposed Palco fire-rated access hatch in situ

4.0. Impact

- 4.1. The proposed works will make a positive contribution in sustaining the heritage values and significance of the building by addressing critical fire safety and compliance issues. The proposed works have been considered carefully in accordance with relevant heritage guidance and the established legislative framework.
- 4.2. Whilst there will be a minor visual impact from introducing ceiling access panels into previously uninterrupted plaster ceilings, this is offset by the essential role they will play in maintaining fire compartmentation and enabling asbestos removal. Panels will be finished to blend with surrounding ceilings and installed with care to minimise intrusion.
- 4.3. The existing ceiling access panels, which vary in type and finish and do not meet current fire-resistance standards, constitute past unsympathetic alterations that already detract from the visual coherence of the interior. Their replacement will provide a rectification of these earlier interventions, resulting in a more unified and discreet ceiling treatment whilst achieving the required level of fire-safety performance.
- 4.4. Collectively, the proposed works will have a positive impact in safeguarding the building's long-term use and adaptability, reducing the need for future invasive interventions and supporting its continued occupation as a civic and administrative centre.
- 4.5. The physical impact of the proposals is minimised by the careful selection of Palco fire-rated panels, which provide robust performance whilst presenting as an honest and easily readable modern addition. Installation will be undertaken with a 'light touch' to avoid unnecessary loss of original material.
- 4.6. The impact on significance values (*Section 2.0*) is as follows:
 - Evidential value: There will be a negligible effect on evidential value as interventions are confined to plain plaster ceilings of low heritage significance. All works will be fully documented, ensuring that evidence of historic construction is recorded before alteration.
 - Historical value: The building's historic context and associations will be strengthened by ensuring it remains safe, compliant and fit for purpose. These works support its continued use as a civic building, thereby sustaining its historic function and relevance.
 - Aesthetic value: There will be a minor impact on aesthetic value due to the introduction of access panels into previously uninterrupted plaster surfaces. However, these panels have been carefully chosen to be discreet: they will be finished flush to blend with the surrounding fabric, ensuring the overall character and visual coherence of the interiors is retained.
 - Communal value: Communal value will be retained and enhanced in enabling the building's ongoing occupation and safeguarding public

safety. These works ensure that the building continues to serve as an accessible and functional civic space for the community.

5.0. Consultation

- 5.1. This application has been prepared with great care and has been submitted following pre-application consultation with Guy Arnall, Principal Heritage Officer to Newport City Council (NCC).

6.0. Policy

[Policy extracts in black text, *commentary / response / justification in blue*]

The proposals have been developed in accordance with Cadw's Conservation Principles. An assessment has been made of the significance of the building in terms of Evidential, Historical, Aesthetic and Communal Value (see section 2 above).

Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales

4. Managing Change

Cadw's *Conservation Principles* are based on the premise that change is an inevitable part of the sustainable management of historic buildings. Changes involve many types of activity, ranging from repair and renewal, on the one hand to new work or alteration on the other.

The introduction of modern ceiling access panels represents a minimal and necessary change to ensure the building remains safe and functional, aligning with the principle that sensitive adaptation supports long-term sustainability.

4.5 New Work or Alteration

New work or alteration may sometimes be necessary or appropriate to keep a historic building in long-term viable use or to give it a new lease of life. *The proposal is put forward in accordance with this objective.* You must be able to explain why the work is needed and provide sufficient information to explain the impact of your proposal on the significance of the building. *This has been previously addressed in this heritage impact statement.* The quality of design and execution should enhance the aesthetic value of the building and its setting, and additions should not dominate. Any new work should also respect the performance characteristics of the building. The choice of appropriate materials and craftsmanship is crucial. The need for quality in new work applies at every level, from small interventions in a historic room to major new buildings or developments. *Fire-rated Palco panels have been chosen*

for their discreet design and compliance with fire safety standards. They will be shallow-framed and decorated to blend with existing ceilings, ensuring they do not dominate the historic interiors.

4.11 Documenting and Recording

It is important to document and learn from the decisions that are taken when changes are made to a listed building.

When part or even all of a historic building is to be lost or altered, it is good practice to take the opportunity to record, investigate and analyse the features of the building that are to be removed or altered. It is also good practice to record features revealed during the course of any work.

All interventions will be fully documented, including photographic records of existing plaster ceilings and any historic construction details revealed during works, preserving evidential value.

Tan 24

5.14 Many listed buildings can sustain a degree of sensitive alteration and extension to accommodate continuing or new uses.

The proposed works are a sensitive alteration, confined to plain plaster ceilings of low significance, enabling compliance and future maintenance without compromising the building's overall character.

5.30 Local authorities should exercise their responsibility for the safety of listed buildings under the building regulations and fire legislation with sympathy, when programmes of repair and conversion have been proposed. They should try to find a balance between meeting those objectives and retaining the character of the building. Conversely, local planning authorities should be sympathetic towards the alteration of listed buildings to help them meet the building regulations having due regard to the significance of the building as well as to the overall benefit of change.

The installation of fire-rated panels is essential to meet statutory fire safety requirements. The design approach minimises visual impact and respects the building's significance, striking the balance TAN 24 advocates.

Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales

28 New work or alteration to an historic asset will normally only be acceptable if:

- a. The need for the work is fully justified;
The works are essential to comply with statutory fire safety and asbestos regulations, ensuring the building remains safe for continued occupation and future maintenance.
- b. there is sufficient information comprehensively to understand the impacts of the proposal on the significance of the asset; *A detailed assessment of significance has been undertaken, identifying the*

affected ceilings as plain plaster of low heritage value. The Heritage Impact Statement sets out the minimal visual and physical impact of the proposals.

- c. the proposal would not materially harm the values of that asset, which, where appropriate, would be reinforced or further revealed; *The works are confined to areas of lower significance and will not materially harm the building's heritage values. By enabling safe ongoing use, the proposals reinforce the building's communal and historical value.*
- d. the quality of design and execution must add value to the existing asset; *Fire-rated Palco panels have been selected for their high performance and discreet design. They will be shallow-framed and decorated to blend with surrounding fabric, ensuring a professional and sensitive intervention.*
- e. the long-term consequences of the proposals can, from experience, be demonstrated to be benign, largely reversible or be designed not to prejudice alternative solutions in the future. *Panels will be installed with minimal disturbance and can be removed without significant harm to the historic fabric. This approach is visually reversible and future-proofs the building by providing safe access for maintenance without repeated interventions.*

37. Following a risk assessment or the review of statutory duties, some changes may be proposed to lessen the risk or consequences of a disaster to an historic asset. These may result from the need for improved fire prevention or escape routes... All options should be evaluated so that a balance can be struck between the possibility of major harm to heritage values without them, and the certainty of the lesser, but often material, harm caused by the works themselves...

Without intervention, the risk of fire spread and asbestos exposure poses significant harm to occupants and the building. The proposed works introduce only minor, controlled change to mitigate these risks.

38. As with repair, the use in new work of materials and techniques proven by experience to be compatible with existing fabric, including recycled material from an appropriate source, tends to bring a low risk of failure. Work which touches existing fabric lightly, or stands apart from it, brings a greater opportunity for innovation and reversibility.

Panels will be installed with minimal disturbance to surrounding plaster, using techniques that allow future removal without significant loss of historic material.

39. Changes which would harm the heritage values of an historic asset will be unacceptable unless:

- a. the changes are demonstrably necessary either to make that asset sustainable, or to meet an overriding public policy objective or need; *As noted, the works are necessary to comply with statutory fire safety and asbestos regulations, which are essential public safety*

requirements. Without these interventions, the building cannot remain safely occupied or meet legal obligations.

- b. there is no reasonably practicable alternative means of doing so without harm; *There is no alternative method to achieve safe access for fire-stopping and asbestos removal without creating openings in the ceilings. Existing hatches are insufficient and failure to provide access would leave critical risks unaddressed.*
- c. that harm has been reduced to the minimum consistent with achieving the objective; *The impact has been minimised by confining works to plain plaster ceilings of low significance, using small discreet openings and panels finished to blend with surrounding fabric. Installation methods are designed to avoid unnecessary loss of historic material.*
- d. it has been demonstrated that the predicted benefit decisively outweighs the harm to the values of the asset, considering
 - its comparative significance; *The affected ceilings are of low heritage significance compared to the building's overall architectural and historic value.*
 - the impact on that significance; *The visual change is minor and reversible, with no loss of decorative or high-value fabric.*
 - the benefits to the asset itself and/or the wider community or society as a whole. *The works ensure life safety, compliance and continued use of the building, which decisively outweighs the limited harm caused by the interventions.*

7.0. Summary

- 6.1. We believe that the proposed works are proportionate and necessary to address critical fire safety and asbestos compliance requirements within the building. These have been carefully developed with due regard for national and Welsh planning policy, heritage guidance and statutory obligations.
- 6.2. The overall aim of the proposals is to ensure the building remains safe, compliant and adaptable for future maintenance, whilst minimising harm to its historic fabric. This approach will enable the continued civic and administrative function of the building and safeguard its long-term use.

8.0. Design and Access Statement

7.1. Layout

The overall layout of Newport Civic Centre is not affected by the proposals. The extent and impact of the proposed works have been addressed in the preceding parts of the Heritage Impact Statement.

7.2. Character & Appearance

The proposed works will have a limited impact upon the character and appearance of Newport Civic Centre. They include both the introduction of new ceiling access panels and the replacement of the existing inconsistent hatches. The new panels will be understated and shallow-framed to blend with the surrounding fabric, ensuring a coordinated and unobtrusive ceiling appearance.

7.3. Scale

No alterations to the scale of Newport Civic Centre are proposed.

7.4. Environmental Sustainability

Since the proposals are predominantly compliance and maintenance works, there are limited opportunities to incorporate environmentally sustainable design solutions.

7.5. Community Safety

The proposed works will enhance community safety by addressing fire compartmentation and asbestos compliance, ensuring the building remains safe for continued occupation.

7.6. Community Involvement

The proposed works will have no impact on community involvement.

7.7. Access

The proposed works will have no impact on access.

Appendix A – Cadw's Listing Description

Description

Commissioned by Newport Corporation in 1936. A u-plan complex, facing SE, set on a sloping site. Elevations of unbonded Portland stone in panels. Basement level of brown rock-faced Derbyshire sandstone. Roofs of brown pantiles, with deep coffered eaves. Steel casement windows. SE front of three storeys, with taller advanced two-storey centre block containing council chamber: five bays. Centre block has tall upper windows with balcony to centre three bays; rusticated ground floor. Tall tapering clock tower set above central block on low square base; pyramidal roof. Tower has panel-like raised sides, simple clock. Three small square openings below eaves to each side. Flanks of centre block of seven bays, the outer bays slightly advanced, with hipped roofs. Lower two floors have parapet roofs and project in front of end bays. Long wings, stepped down the slope in three stages, 1+11+6 bays. Flat roofs behind parapets; rock-faced plinths. Lowest blocks have SE entrance facades each of two storeys and five bays, the centre entrance bay higher and advanced, with pyramidal roof. Entrances set within giant round-arched openings with glazing above, similar to those at Cambridge University Library (by Giles Gilbert Scott). Openings have cable-mouldings. Projecting door surrounds of polished black granite within Portland stone frames. Carved and painted shields above. NE elevation stepped up slope in three two storey blocks, each slightly advanced of one another. Six bay lower block. Middle block of eleven bays with entrance within giant central opening; door surround as above. Upper block of five bays, with similar door; three bays slightly recessed to the right. SW elevation has similar upper block, its entrance with shield and date of 1939 above. Nine bay middle section, the taller pyramid-roofed centre bay containing entrance within giant cable-moulded arch, as SE elevation. Six bay lower block. NW elevation contains current entrance. Central entrance range of fifteen bays, two storeys. Upper storey set behind parapet roof as to SE. Wide centre bay with tower above, containing entrance, set within giant arch: later glazing and balcony. Five bay returns to centre block to single bays which have round-arched service entries to SE court. Range to left of nine bays; right range of eight bays with delivery doors to centre.

(Source: Cadw Listings database) S Garfi 3/10/06

Designed by Thomas Cecil Howitt in Art Deco style, the Newport Civic Centre was finally opened to the public in 1940. This centre of local government houses the city council, courts (NPRN: 304460) and mayor's office.

Appendix B – Site Plan

