

Hornsey Town Hall Renaissance

Capita Symonds is providing multi-disciplinary services to restore Grade II* listed Town Hall in North London to provide a community and civic facility that will benefit the local community

Client: London Borough of Haringey

Location: Hornsey, London

Lead Discipline: Project Management

Services: Project Management, Cost Management, Structural Engineering, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, Planning Consultancy, Environmental Engineering, Architecture and Urban Design.

Start date: September 2007

Completion: Summer 2012

Contract Type: Traditional Two Stage

Project value: £18 million



Client Objectives:

The key objective of this £18m project is the restoration, refurbishment and conversion of the existing Grade 2* Listed Hornsey Town Hall buildings into a community and civic facility.

Delivering the Project:

Capita Symonds' Regeneration and Development Management team is managing this project in North East London which is being partly funded by the disposal of Council land for development and of property adjoining the Town Hall.

Designed by Reginald Urin, Hornsey Town Hall was built in 1935 and is seen as one of the finest buildings of its period, with many original fixtures and fittings still in place. In its heyday its Assembly Hall staged events of all kinds including dances, school prize-givings and even Queen's first concert in 1971. The Town Hall still regularly features in TV programmes and films including ITV's *Whitechapel*, the BBC's *Moses Jones*, and the recent Hollywood political satire *In the Loop*.

When Haringey Council decided it no longer needed the building as offices, local people campaigned for it to be retained for community use. Haringey established a Community Partnership Board (CPB) which is now working with the Council to oversee the project.

Possible uses for the landmark are set to include performance and rehearsal spaces, an art house cinema, exhibition space, and small business units, shops and cafés.

As of July 2009 Capita Symonds is working with CPB towards a full planning application which is scheduled for October this year. Work is then expected to start on site next Spring.

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Adding Value:

Although the project is currently in the development process, the Capita Symonds team has already:

- Enabled the CPB to retain and be confident of their leading role in the decision making process, holding regular workshops and review meetings to help them develop their ideas;
- Assisted the CPB in selecting, appointing and briefing an architect who they believe has the skills, capacity and understanding to deliver their brief;
- Prepared programme information in a robust but accessible way to show the CPB how their decisions affect programme and budget;
- Gone beyond the strict confines of their role in order to support the client in developing and then implementing their vision for this Grade2* Listed building. This included helping the client better understand their role and the roles of design team members, enabling them to test and verify information and then make decisions based upon it.
- Worked to ensure the quality of the surrounding development which will help fund the scheme by paying careful attention to the relationships between buildings, their relative scales and massing. This will be critical as the development affects the setting of the two Listed Buildings and the local Conservation Area.

For further information on this project contact:

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