



Swansea Civic Centre

Project overview

In 2006, it was decided that the County Hall in Swansea was to become the Civic Centre for the city, to represent a more community-focused style of governance. The redevelopment works included the installation of a library, exhibition space, archive centre, contact centre and waterfront café, in addition to refurbishment and remodelling of existing work spaces. Whitehead was appointed to a 78 week M&E programme consisting of six separate works packages, working with developer Carillion plc. Works included the addition of building management systems, data cabling, ceiling-mounted PA, various security systems (including CCTV), and air conditioning. In addition, Whitehead was responsible for the remodelling and enhancement of life safety systems in the building, such as fire alarms and emergency lighting. The project was completed successfully on time and within budget.

Challenges

This redevelopment project had to be undertaken while regular council operations were continuing. Whitehead was required to devise a schedule based around minimising disruption to council staff, needing to smoothly rehouse up to 50 personnel at any one time in temporary working spaces in other parts of the building. New services had to be installed without creating new service voids, and Whitehead was responsible for maintaining life safety systems throughout the duration of the contract.

Solutions

Whitehead was able to complete the project works while ensuring the health and safety of all staff members, contractors and the public. A new access control system was installed (with renewed ID pass requirements for over 600 staff) and by concealing services within existing voids and zones - and carefully managing staff decanting requirements - disruption to the council's operations were successfully minimised.

Project title

» Civic Centre, Swansea

Project Manager

» Steve Jones

Sector

» Public

Location

» Swansea

Client name

» Carillion

Start date

» September 2006

Completion date

» March 2008

Value

» £2.2m

"This project is all about giving the building back to the people and I'm sure the Civic Centre will become a cultural hub of Swansea. The project was completed on time and within budget."

Cllr Mary Jones
Swansea Council