

News

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Morgan Sindall appointed to renovate Erdington's Civic House

Morgan Sindall has been appointed to carry out the refurbishment and improvement to Birmingham City Council's former offices, Civic House in Erdington.

The contract has been awarded to Morgan Sindall due to its ongoing position on the Constructing West Midlands (CWM) framework for Birmingham City Council (BCC). The CWM Framework was set up by BCC and its partner Acivico and covers the whole of the greater West Midlands region.

The work, which commenced at the end of May, will see Birmingham Adult Education Service (BAES) provided with a modern learning environment. BAES will be able to bring together its existing adult learning offer- currently offered at the neighbouring Osborne and Boldmere centres - by relocating to the renovated Civic House. The new centre will be renamed Erdington Adult Education Centre .This will also allow the Osborne Centre to revert back to primary education use, delivering valuable additional school places to the local community.

The Civic House project includes a redesign of the entrance, creation of a main reception and a purpose built workshop for woodwork and upholstery classes on the ground floor. The open plan layout of the first and second floors of the building will be reconfigured to provide nine classrooms including an extended and fully fitted cookery classroom and facilities for floristry and creative industries programmes. There will also be up-to-date ICT equipment installed to facilitate the learning and courses offered at the centre.

All three floors will be stripped out and new fixtures and fittings installed. These will include a mix of solid and glazed partitions to create the new classrooms, thermostatically controlled heating and refurbishments to the existing lift car.

Civic House previously housed the council's Erdington Neighbourhood office. Staff and services from the office have relocated to an adjacent building on Sutton New Road.

From the completed facility BAES will provide an extensive range of courses to local residents including: maths, English, languages, information technology, counselling skills, woodwork skills, upholstery skills, floristry and other creative programmes linked to enterprise and setting up a business. There will also be engaging courses for people with learning difficulties and for unemployed adults there will be tailored pre-employment programmes linked to employers recruiting locally.

The relocation to Civic House will give BAES the opportunity to further its relationship with the adjacent Jobcentre Plus, supporting unemployed people back into work through the courses offered.

The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August, in time for the start of the new term in September.

Councillor Brett O'Reilly, cabinet member for jobs and skills at Birmingham City Council, said: "This is a hugely important step forward for adult education provision in Birmingham, enabling the service to deliver a complete range of courses from a single, modern base, further strengthening the excellent work that it already does to equip people with valuable skills and qualifications, as

well as playing a key role in helping unemployed Birmingham people back into work.”

Richard Fielding, area director at Morgan Sindall, said: “The finished work will provide the local community with a modern and easily accessible learning environment. We’re proud of our involvement in this project and of our continuing work within the CWM framework.”

Joanne Keatley, Principal of BAES said “We have provided high quality learning opportunities for adults at the Boldmere and Osborne Centres for many years. This new facility will provide the high quality learning environment that our learners deserve, to go along with the excellent teaching and support they have always received.”

For more information about this news release please contact Jonathan Daly at Influential on 07881301437 or email daly@thisisinfluential.com