



The Grade II* Listed building was started in 1932 and was opened officially by HRH Edward, Prince of Wales in December 1933. The overall cost to build and fit out the Town Hall was £188,037, 12 shillings and 10 old pennies.

With the microphones removed, the chamber still looks exactly as it did when it was new. With the microphones inserted and at the touch of a button on the controller, the chamber now automatically transforms into one of the most up to date, fully digital conference audio visual and webcasting systems in the country.



The main equipment rack is hidden behind the screen at the top table and in the foreground is the operators table with full touch screen control of the chip card registration and microphone management. The other monitors relay the video showing on the projectors to the chairman and top table delegates.



The chairman has a DIS delegate unit that provides a touch screen to enable the chairman to run the agendas and microphone management and the monitor shows the video pictures.



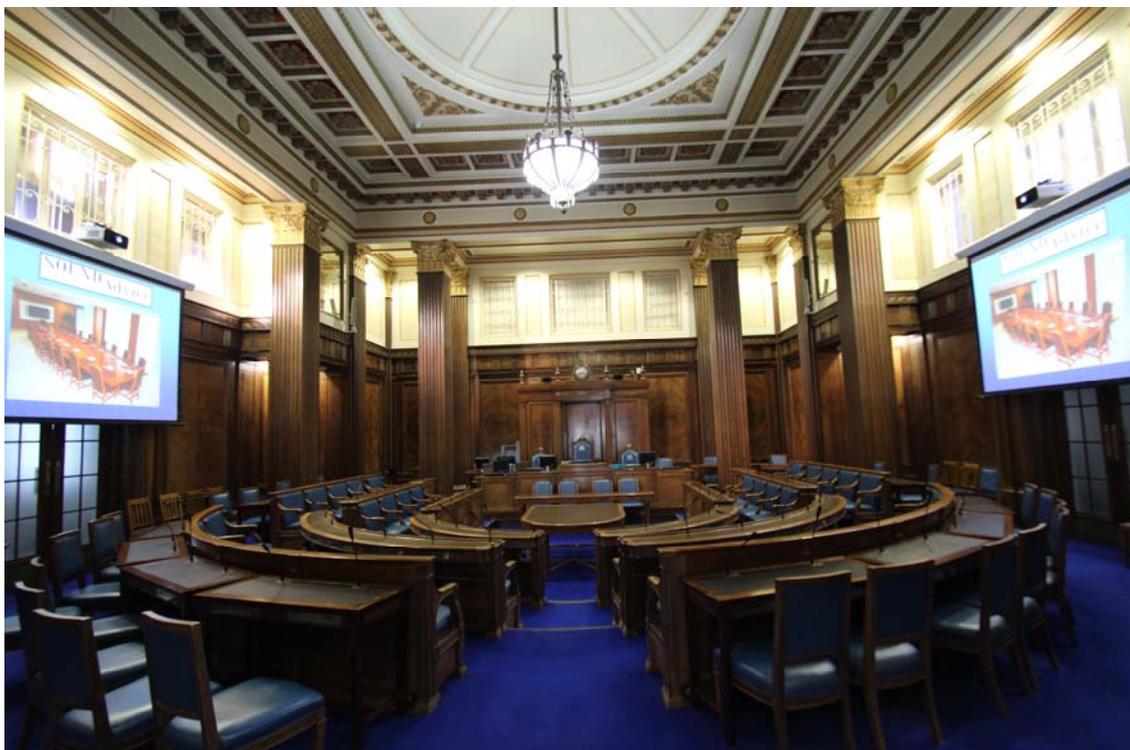
The chamber is used for weddings, social functions and citizenship ceremonies so the microphones are removable from their brass plates so that they don't intrude in the photographs.

Each delegates position in the chamber has a single push to talk button mounted on a brass plate which was engineered to exactly match the original plates. In front of each delegate was a drawer which has now been removed. Custom brass plates were manufactured to exactly fit into the hole left by the drawer and provides the slot for the chip card registration and a headphone socket for use by the hard of hearing. The hardware and cabling is in place ready to upgrade the system to have voting mounted on the plate at a later date.



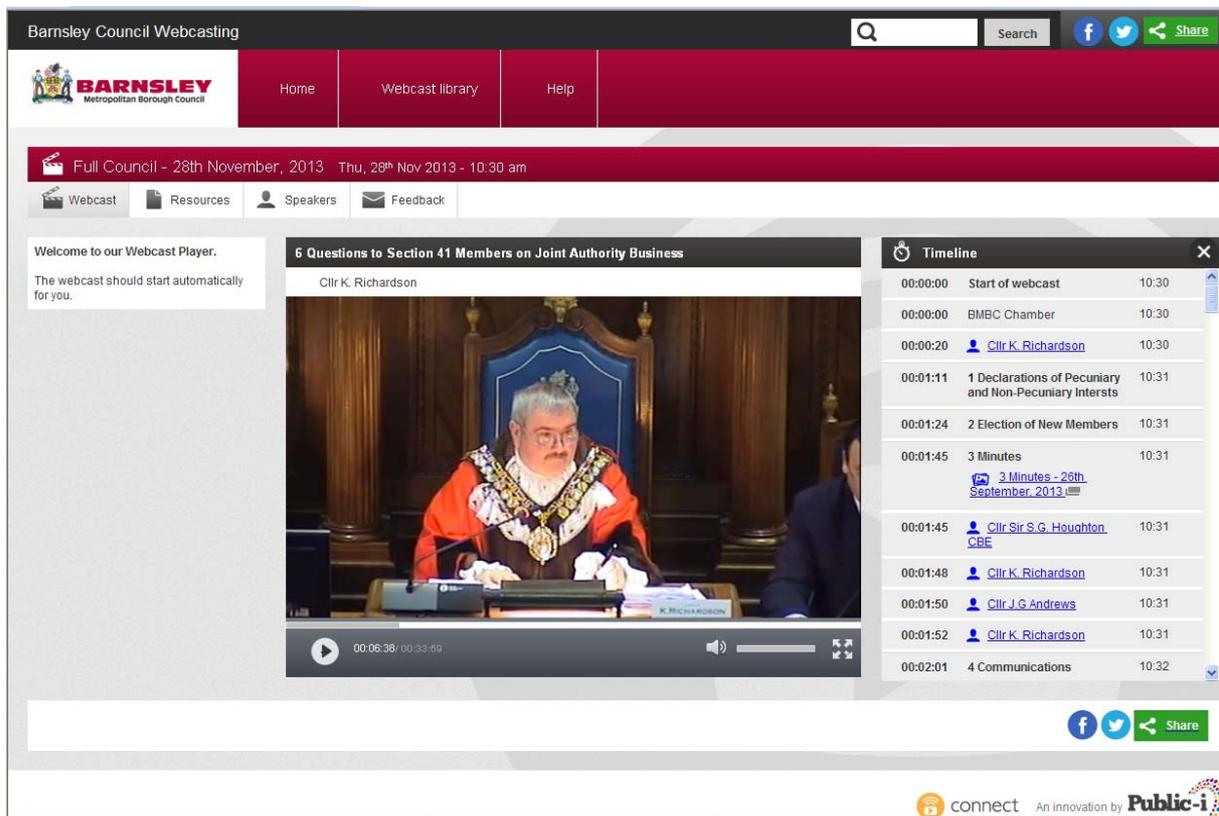
An AMX master touch screen unit has been programmed to operate all of the conference equipment. Projectors on/off, screen up / down, signal source select, volume control, webcast broadcast on / off and whole system on/off is all achieved by using the one touch screen

Tony Taylor, Head of Technical Facilities commented “The installation of the new webcasting and presentation system at Barnsley Town Hall is outstanding. Beyond the exceptional functionality of the system, which has satisfied the entire customer brief, it has been sympathetically installed with no irreversible impact to the Grade II* listed chamber and met the approval of our Planning department. The equipment supplied and installed is of excellent quality and is at the forefront of technology available in today’s market place and has been received well by all users.’



The ornate decoration and fixed layout of the seating conspired to make the location of the projectors and screens the most difficult part of the installation. After several trials and discussions on sight lines, the projectors were installed over each of the doors, projecting onto a screen on the opposite wall, located below the opposing projector. The photo shows both displays working well in bright sunlight. These locations have proved to be ideal for everyone in the chamber, including the public gallery, being able to see clearly and comfortably.

Four fully functional cameras enable the meetings from the Chamber to be webcast and either watched live or archived meetings watched on demand. The Council also records the proceedings for supporting the traditional minutes and provides “snap shots” of the meeting for Members to post to their own websites.



A fully portable digital radio conference system was provided for the committee rooms with individual microphones for the delegates and portable radio loudspeakers to relay the audio to the public seating. Being totally cableless, the system can be laid out in multiple configurations by one person in minutes saving time as the rooms can be set out for different meetings up to four times a day

