

# NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY HALL



**Client:** Northumberland County Council  
**Project Value:** £16 million  
**Project Details:** Portland worked alongside External architects and the Council's in-house architectural team to create a reinvigorated and extended County Hall featuring new reception and exhibition area, cafe, meeting suite and rationalised parking areas and pedestrian plaza.

Structurally, the project comprised three discrete areas, the extension and remodelling of the reception area, the extension and remodelling of the restaurant and the extension of the meeting suite to provide additional space. A particular challenge was the slender, colonnade effect to the new reception and this required a detailed and considered structural design to be undertaken along with detailed structural surveys of the existing 1970s building, which had previously been extended on several occasions.

Works within the courtyard areas meant that 'buildability' was a key consideration and light weight materials such as timber were utilised to aid manual handling. As part of the works, a full accessibility assessment was undertaken with many revisions being made to internal and external areas to enhance accessibility.

