**Common Room and Atrium Consultation - Summary**

67 responses

The Space Management Working Group are asked to review the summary of the feedback received and approve the proposed recommendations.

1. **Recommendations:**

* **Retain the common room as a relaxed dual-purpose space without a meeting pod. Consider low-cost improvements to its suitability as a place for department members to meet for conversations over lunch, the “lunchtime crowd” may be able to provide suggestions.**
* **People are receptive to change in the Atrium. Trial one or two meeting pods and reduce the number of sofas/comfortable chairs or reorganise this area.**

1. **Feedback - The Common Room:**

* 44.8% of respondents use the Common Room frequently or very frequently.
* Lunch is the most popular reason why people use the Common Room (64.1%), followed by informal meetings (45%).
* 64% of respondents would like to see the common room stay the same – as a space for lunch and informal meetings. Only 11.9% support the proposal to use the common room exclusively as an informal meeting space.
* Layout option 3 is the most popular first and second choice if changes are to be made.
* Of the 35 comments, themes and suggestions include:
  + 12 comments are themed around the importance of retaining a quiet, informal, flexible space in the RPC building to get away for your desk for lunch and to have conversations with others. Some highlight previous advice that the Atrium should not be used for lunch.
  + One comment suggested meeting others in the common room at lunchtime is what “makes this department such a nice place to be”.
  + Concerns that the large window would be blocked with high-backed chairs.
  + Suggestions that the Common Room itself may not be large enough for a meeting pod.
  + That the Common Room could be organised more effectively to reduce wasted space.
  + The importance of retaining a quiet space for managing health conditions.

1. **Feedback - The Atrium:**

* 71% of respondents use the atrium very frequently or frequently.
* Most respondents (94%) use the atrium for informal meetings.
* Layout option 7 is the most popular first and second choice.
* Of the 23 comments, themes and suggestions include:
  + People (seven comments) are in favour of pods in the Atrium, with some suggesting more than 1 pod or more creative use of pods.
  + Four people commented that the couch area is underutilised. It could either be made smaller or moved into the middle of the atrium to break up the sound.
  + Tables and chairs offer more flexibility over fixed meeting pods.
  + Place the pods in such a way to minimise disruption to the downstairs offices whilst ensuring meetings are as private as possible.