

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 8TH NOVEMBER 2006

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PALACE THEATRE / GRAND HALL, KILMARNOCK

Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of progress with the capital project to improve facilities at the Palace Theatre / Grand Hall and seek approval for additional expenditure.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's capital programme, as amended by the Emergency Powers Committee on 19th July 2006, includes a project to refurbish the Palace Theatre / Grand Hall and funding is allocated across two financial years as follows: 2006/07 - £80,000 and 2007/08 - £435,000. This funding is required to address the essential replacement of the central heating boilers and to provide a means of safe access into the roof space above the Grand Hall to allow the lighting rig to be tested and a new rig hung to support light and sound installations. Further work is also required to install a lift adjacent to the main entrance to the Grand Hall to give Disability Discrimination Act compliant access to both floors of the building.
- 2.2 This funding package had been identified as the Council's contribution to a wider refurbishment which was the subject of a lottery grant application. Unfortunately the application was unsuccessful and therefore the project has now been re-examined and additional funding requirements have been identified to ensure that the facility and its customers can benefit from significant facility improvements.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The main elements of the revised project have been costed as follows:

i) Replacement of Central Heating Boilers	£370,000
ii) Safe access to roof and lighting rig	£210,000
iii) Access improvements to Grand Hall	£210,000

These figures are estimates and include professional fees and small contingency sums.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The revised project described above will require total funding of £790,000. The current budget in the capital programme amounts to £515,000, therefore an additional sum of £275,000 will be required to complete the works. This amount is currently available from Council funds.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council must ensure that its buildings' comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act; the proposed programme of work will assist in ensuring that these requirements are met.

6. COMMUNITY PLAN / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Palace Theatre / Grand Hall complex is a major community facility which provides a wide range of leisure and social opportunities for local people, ensuring that the building is maintained to high standards and is fully accessible are essential if the building is to continue to meet the needs and expectations of its customers.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The programme of works proposed for the Palace Theatre / Grand Hall will continue the major refurbishment that has been carried out in the last two years. The improvements to the Grand Hall will assist with the drive to offer a broader range of events and reach a wider audience. In order to minimise disruption to customers the proposed works will be carried out concurrently and will start early in 2007, immediately after the Pantomime season.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) approve the revised programme of work planned at the Palace Theatre / Grand Hall and the allocation of the required funding for the project; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the content of the report

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/JAG/TR

23rd October 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Implementation Officer - john.griffiths@east-ayrshire.gov.uk