

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7 FEBRUARY 2001

THEATRE LOTTERY BID – SOUND SYSTEM

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the committee about the successful Lottery application relating to the installation of a new sound system within the Palace Theatre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 After the 1999/2000 pantomime “Babes in the Wood” and problems experienced with other performances, it became evident that the sound system within the Palace Theatre was inadequate for the demands of modern theatre.
- 2.2 It was also becoming increasingly obvious that the system was unable to cope with many visiting theatre companies requirements due to the lack of various modern day accessories. The present induction loop system has been in place for many years and therefore no longer provides a decent level of sound quality to the hard of hearing.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 It was considered that the best way forward to furnish the theatre with a top quality sound system was to apply to the Scottish Arts Council Lottery Funding, with the SAC providing 64% of the total amount required and East Ayrshire Council providing the balance of 36%.
- 3.2 A consultant was engaged to provide specifications for the most suitable sound system for the Palace Theatre. These specifications were then passed on to six reputable sound companies inviting them to tender for the contract. Of the six companies approached, three put in a confirmed bid. The bid adjudged to be the most favourable to East Ayrshire Council was tendered by Northern Light.
- 3.3 The bid was successful and the Scottish Arts Council has confirmed that approximately £55,000 has been allocated to this project.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Lottery contribution: £54,985.00
East Ayrshire Council contribution: £31,000.00

4.2 The East Ayrshire Council contribution was met from existing budgets.

5 LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Palace Theatre will now be able to provide quality sound in keeping with modern day standards.

6.2 The installation of the new system will be completed by 16 March 2001.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of this report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/BG/JC

15 January 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

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AGENDA