

Key Council Decisions

Cabinet CAB66/14 - 30 October 2014

Assembly Hall Theatre (AHT) Update

The decision at Cabinet on 30 October was:

- That approval for the use of reserves of £1,135,000 to carry out essential work to improve the Assembly Hall Theatre as part of the 2015/16 capital programme be recommended to Full Council;
- That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio-Holder for Finance and Governance and the Section 151 Officer, be authorised to investigate all options for the financial viability of delivering a new theatre on, or adjacent to, the civic complex, or Council owned land in Royal Tunbridge Wells;
- That the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Finance for Governance and the Section 151 Officer, be authorised to approve the required funds and professional expertise for this, from the development programme budget; and
- That the Deputy Chief Executive ensures that the Development Advisory Panel is engaged as appropriate during the process.

Full Council FC41/15 – 9 December 2015

Assembly Hall Theatre Mandate and Next Steps

At the end of the feasibility work Cabinet on 3 December 2015 and Full Council on 9 December 2015 respectively agreed to move to **Stage 1**. A decision in October 2015 to progress with the office proposal had already been taken in advance of the full project being considered in December. Full Council, resolved for:

- the provision of a new theatre with a larger auditorium to accommodate a wider range of productions and therefore a greater offer to the visitor
- Provision of an office for the Council (including the civic function) and for a tenant on Mount Pleasant Avenue Car Park.
- Provision of a parking facility to support the new developments.
- A Masterplan Framework document to place the proposed developments in the context of the planning policies and place shaping ambition for the Town Centre.

Full Council FC18/16 – 20 July 2016

Civic Complex Review of Stage 1 and Next Steps

At the end of Stage 1, Full Council on the 20 July 2016 resolved to move into **Stage 2**:

- all consultancy fees identified in the report are spent at risk and that they will be abortive costs if the buildings are not developed.
- the Council has moved into RIBA Stage 2 (concept design) for the project to progress:
 - Office
 - Theatre

- Underground Car Park
 - Masterplan
 - Procurement of a development partner
- That the Great Hall Car Park is the preferred site for the new theatre.
 - That Calverley Grounds is the preferred site for an underground car park.
 - That the authority to move into RIBA Stage 3 (developed design) for the project be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance, the Leader, the S151 Officer and the Director for Planning and Development.
 - That authority be delegated to the Director for Planning and Development, the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance, to enter into a formal agreement for lease with the prospective tenant on appropriate market terms, and that the principle of the capital commitment of doing so is recognised, and the financial risk if the commitments in the agreement to lease are not fulfilled, be recognised.
 - That the Council approves the allocation of £2 million from the General Fund to the Capital and Revenue Initiatives Reserve and that this sum is vired into the Development Programme Budget.
 - That the S151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Governance is requested to bring back a report to a future meeting with options to address the revenue implications for funding the capital cost of the project, when or before the capital request is being considered.

Full Council FC70/16 - 22 February 2017

Civic Development - Delivery of Stage 3

At the end of Stage 2 Full Council on the 22 February 2017 agreed to progress into **Stage 3**:

- all consultancy fees identified in the report are spent at risk and that they will be abortive costs if the buildings are not developed.
- the Council moves into RIBA Stage 3 (developed design) for the project to progress:
 - Office
 - Theatre
 - Underground Car Park
 - Development Framework
 - Procurement of a development partner