

Key Decision Required:	NO	In the Forward Plan:	NO
-------------------------------	-----------	-----------------------------	-----------

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES PORTFOLIO HOLDER
& LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO HOLDER
27 JULY 2017**

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONAL SERVICES)

A.1 REPLACEMENT OF PRINCES THEATRE TIERED SEATING SYSTEM

(Report prepared by Michael Carran and Kai Aberdeen)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To agree the replacement of the seats in the tiered seating system in the Princes Theatre, to be funded from existing budgets.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The current tiered seating is past the end of its lifecycle and is in a poor condition. Some of the seats do not automatically close when patrons stand, which in the event of an emergency could impede egress. Aesthetically some of the seats are worn, ripped and there are some arm rests missing. Due to the age of the system there is no paperwork to demonstrate compliance with current fire regulations.
- Due to the age of the system replacement parts are no longer available for purchase.
- A combination of budgets within the Princes Theatre cost centre have been identified to cover the cost. As such, this will be paid for through revenue budgets and no additional funding is required.
- An initial quotation to ascertain the costs of this replacement has estimated the total cost at £46,470.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that:

- a) The replacement of the tiered seating within the Princes Theatre be agreed;**
- b) subject to a) above, the scheme is added to the 2017/18 Capital Programme at a cost of £46,470 funded from existing Princes Theatre budgets as set out within this report ; and**
- c) subject to a) and b) above, the Corporate Director (Operational Services) be requested to undertake the necessary actions to procure / deliver the project.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**DELIVERING PRIORITIES**

The installation of this seating system will assist the Council in its objective to enhance its Leisure Facilities and achieve affordable excellence throughout its services.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK**Finance and other resources**

The following table sets how the cost for the project will be covered in the Princes Theatre existing budget;

Budget Line	Current Budget 2017/18	Proposed Adjustment	Revised Budget 2017/18
Building Repairs	£4,310	(£3,000)	£1,310
Equipment and Tools	£15,120	(£8,000)	£7,120
Leisure Income Booking Fee (online sales)	(£810)	(£35,470)	(£36,280)
General Fund Direct Revenue Financing of Capital	£4,911,130	£46,470	£4,957,600

The proposed budgetary adjustments will be funded entirely from the Princes Theatre budget.

To date the net leisure income booking fees received are ahead of the budget by £7,250. Based on this favourable position to date along with projections for the remainder of the year, the revised income budget is anticipated to reach the required £36,280 figure set out in the table above. This will be monitored over the remainder of the year to ensure the overall cost of the replacement tiered seating will be met from within the theatre's overall net budget position in 2017/18.

Risk

Seating will continue to deteriorate leaving uncertainty as to whether they will comply with current fire regulations in the future.

Customers are already commenting on the state of poor repair of the seating and will eventually lead to an adverse effect on the theatres reputation and sales.

LEGAL

The proposals are within the Council's powers. The Request for allocation of additional budget is in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework, as set out in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

The Princes Theatre is located in Pier Ward.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

It has been identified that the current tiered seating system is beyond its economic lifecycle (approximately 20 years old); and due to its age, parts are no longer available.

Some of the seats in the auditorium do not automatically close when patrons stand up which in the event of an emergency could impede egress.

Aesthetically some of the seats are worn, ripped and there are some arm rests missing. With an emphasis on growing the theatre as a business it is essential that patrons do not leave the theatre with an adverse impression. Likewise civic events such as full council will also benefit from having more modern, comfortable and presentable seating for members of the public.

Due to the age of the system there is no paperwork to demonstrate compliance with current fire retardant regulations.

The project will also include a complete back row for the dress circle seating which will mean aesthetically the new seats will not be noticed but will provide 22 seats worth of spare parts to also bring the dress circle up to an acceptable standard whilst keeping expenditure to a minimum.

This project will be paid for through theatre revenue budgets and no additional funding is required.

An initial quotation to ascertain the costs of this replacement has estimated the total cost at £46,000.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None.

APPENDICES

- (i) Details of scope of the proposed works.

