

Councillor Barry
C/o Leadership Support Team
Town Hall
Station Road
Clacton-on-Sea
Essex
CO15 1SE

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Station Road
Clacton-on-Sea
Essex
CO15 1SE

Email : kaberdeen@tendringdc.gov.uk
Our ref: PTREDEC

Wednesday, 15 November 2023

Dear Cllr. Barry,

PRINCES THEATRE AUDITORIUM & ESSEX HALL REDECORATION

The Princes Theatre was last redecorated in 2011, over 12 years ago. Due to heavy wear and tear, over time the aesthetics of the interior of the Theatre has declined in line with its usage. In addition to this, the Essex Hall was last redecorated in 2016, due to its use as a welcome area and bar, the quality of the décor has also declined consistent with usage.

Whilst the current state of the interior of the Princes Theatre and the Essex Hall hasn't to date impacted or deterred prospective customers, Officers are receiving increasing verbal feedback commenting on the 'tiredness' of the venues. Due to the nature of the venues being part of an experience that customers buy into when they book a show, wedding or event, Officers wish to proactively explore options for full internal redecoration of both the Essex Hall and Princes Theatre. It is envisaged that procurement for these two spaces is carried out at the same time to not only benefit from economies of scale and potential reduction in overall costs, but also to maximise from the typically quieter post pantomime period in January (2024) which will ensure that the Theatre is unavailable for the shortest amount of time.

The Princes Theatre has a 'Restoration Fund' in place designed to be used to cover the costs of any such project without the need for cost pressures and capital spend from the wider Tendring District Council funds. The 'Restoration Fund' is a fund that is entirely made up from donations from Princes Theatre customers, when donating it is made clear that all donations to this fund will go to the ongoing restoration of the Princes Theatre. Officers maintain a record of works identified and required; these are prioritised according to need. The current three year major project plan includes (in order of priority): auditorium redecoration, new speakers for dress circle delay, auditorium air-conditioning, and re-carpeting the auditorium. There is currently £21,500.00 available in the 'Restoration Fund' (this figure will rise) and £20,000 available in existing revenue budgets allocated to minor restorative works.

In summary, it is requested that permission be given for the internal redecoration of the Princes Theatre and the Essex Hall, and for this to be paid out of the Princes Theatre Restoration Fund. In consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Leader, it is proposed that a more traditional colour scheme of red, white and gold be used. Officers envisage that keeping on top of the maintenance of the interiors of the Princes Theatre and Essex Hall will ensure that paying customers and residents continue to receive a high-quality experience and visit.

If you agree with the above permission request, I would be grateful if you would sign and return the concurrence below.

Yours sincerely

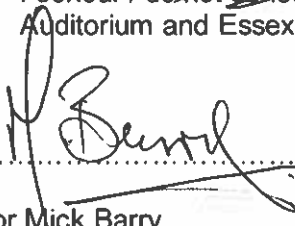
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kai Aberdeen', written over a horizontal line.

Kai Aberdeen
General Theatre Management - Technical

Dear Kai

I refer to your letter dated Wednesday, 15 November 2023, your Ref: PTREDEC requesting my approval to support the Princes Theatre Auditorium & Essex Hall Redecoration.

- I concur / ~~do not concur~~ with the proposed redecoration of the Princes Theatre Auditorium and Essex Hall.



.....
Councillor Mick Barry
Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Public Realm

15-11-23
.....

Dated

- Please strike through as appropriate

Additional comments (if not concurring)

