

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2247

Author:

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Department:

Communities

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Subject:

Funding for additional access works at Nottingham Theatre Royal and Concert Hall (NTRCH)

Total Value:

£118,619 (Type: Capital)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To fund access works to the stage door and dressing room areas of both the Theatre Royal and the Royal Concert Hall
- 2) To award the contract for the Royal Transformation Project architectural services directly to Marsh and Grochowski Architects, whilst agreeing to the dispensation of financial regulations.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

1) In July 2015 the Council's Executive Board approved a report for NTRCH to submit a Stage 2 bid to Arts Council England for its Royal Transformation Project. The project is largely concerned with improving the front of house experience for visitors whilst at the same time improving catering, function and rehearsal spaces to widen the offer NTRCH can make and to secure future revenue streams to consolidate NTRCH's long term financial stability.

The project team have identified a further opportunity, as part of the design process and discussions with staff and feedback from disabled performers, to carry out a discrete piece of work to improve the NTRCH's accessibility by carrying out improvements to the back stage areas of the complex. The works will include alterations to the stage door entrance to create a new lobby with wider internal doors and fitting an external platform lift to the stage door, which would for the first time ensure the creation of independent access backstage to both venues and remove the need for disabled performers to be accompanied backstage.

Whilst this is technically a discrete project, there is a logic to including it within the wider Royal Transformation scope to enhance the opportunity for achieving economies of scales in delivering the building works and ensuring that the works are co-ordinated appropriately in a heavily used operational building. The funding for this work can be met through a contribution from the NTRCH's endowment fund. The reason approval for the additional funding is being sought at this stage is to ensure that the NCC finance officer can provide a letter to accompany the Arts Council England bid which will confirm the full amount of match funding is in place.

2) The appointment of Marsh and Grochowski architects (whilst recognising the need for dispensation of financial regulations), is to prevent the loss of information to date, to maintain the working relationships that have been established and to prevent further costs to the project due to reworking of the design, scope and specification. The reworking of the designs will also have a significant impact on the Transformation Programme, which could jeopardise funding from the Arts Council and will also impact on the NTRCH business case as the benefits from the transformation project will be delayed, reduced or even lost. Funding for the appointment of Marsh and Grochowski Architects was included within the Executive Board report (July 2015) entitled Royal Centre Transformation Project - Arts Council Bid. Therefore the report seeks approval for their appointment and the dispensation of financial regulations only.

Other Options Considered:

- i. Not carrying out the work, this would reduce the experience and ability of performers with a wide range of disabilities to fully utilise the facilities that NTRCH has and the opportunities it offers.
- ii. Delay the works, this would lead to increased costs due to building inflation and the potential to miss out on economies of scale.
- iii. Not appoint Marsh and Grochowski Architects, which would make the delivery programme unachievable as the appointment would have to be tendered.

Background Papers:

None.

Published Works:

Affected Wards: Arboretum

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None.

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: There are no crime and disorder implications.

Equality: Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA Additional Access Works at Nottingham Theatre Royal and Concert Hall.doc

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 23/11/2015

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice: This report does not raise any significant legal issues as it is understood the work will be procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations.

Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 02/11/2015.

Finance Advice:

- 1. The cost of this decision is £118,619, which will be funded from the NTRCH's endowment fund that has been set up to finance this type of expenditure.
- 2. The capital programme will need to be amended to include this scheme.
- 3. The recommendations in this report do not impact on the achievement of Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 4. Any annual maintenance costs will be met from existing revenue budgets of the NTRCH.
- 5. Dispensation from tendering requirements is sought under financial regulations 3.29 to appoint Marsh and Grochowski Architects. This is to ensure a continuity of the major ACE scheme, reducing the risk of loss of information, reworking of design, scope and specifications that could lead to additional costs, delays or loss of income to TRCH.

Advice provided by Steve Ross (Finance Analyst) on 10/11/2015.

The cost of access works to the Theatre Royal and Concert Hall are £118,619, there are available funds in the Nottingham Theatre Royal and Concert Hall endowment fund to cover all the costs of this decision and will therefore be no net impact on the capital programme totals.

Advice provided by Tim Gallimore, Senior Finance Assistant - Capital on 27/10/15.

Procurement Advice:

In order to ensure a continuity of work is undertaken the procurement team supports the recommendation set out in the report, to seek a dispensation to Finance Regulation 3.29 in accordance with contract procedure rule 5.1.2.

Advice provided by Sue Oliver (Category Manager - Procurement) on 11/11/2015.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

The proposal meets the Public Sector Equality Duty in that disabled people will have equality of opportunity through the planned works and adjustments. Continued consultation with performers and patrons as planned will be key in ensuring some future-proofing for the scheme to enable the scarce resources that come through via grant funding are fully maximised.

Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 03/11/2015.

Signatures

David Trimble (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture)

SIGNED and Dated: 16/11/2015

Andrew Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)

SIGNED and Dated: 13/11/2015