
MILL HALL STAGE LIGHTING

The Chairman has admitted this item as urgent business in order to enable the Council to include provision of this issue in the new leisure contract specification should Members so wish.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. A Member has raised concerns with regard to the quality of the stage lighting at Mill Hall owing to its age. This raises two main questions; how long can the lighting be relied upon not to break down, and how efficient is the equipment to run?
- 1.2. The current leisure contract requires Leisure Connection to maintain the equipment. The Council would be responsible for any upgrading. A list of the current equipment is attached at Appendix A.

2 THE EQUIPMENT

- 2.1. The equipment is old. It was installed in the late 1970's, the technical input being made by members of the Rayleigh Operatic and Dramatic Society (RODS).
- 2.2. Around 1990, work was carried out to upgrade the stage and renew the curtains. At the same time, the Council provided new dimming controls in the upstairs control room and downstairs meter room, together with two new lighting barrels in front of the stage. The positioning was managed totally by RODS.
- 2.3. It is recognised that the lighting is now inadequate and organisations tend to bring in additional equipment. RODS advise that they now provide virtually the whole of the lighting from their own equipment when they put on a production.
- 2.4. It is accepted that modern lighting equipment is more energy efficient.

3 THE WAY FORWARD

- 3.1. Should Members be minded to agree that action should be taken to improve the lighting, there are two sources of action available. A bid for funding from the new capital receipt could be made. Officers have not had the opportunity to formulate an estimated cost. In addition, the Council would need to employ expert lighting consultants in order to devise an upgrading scheme.
- 3.2. The alternative would be to include a requirement in the specification for the new leisure contract for the contractor to undertake the responsibility of bringing the lighting up to modern standards.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The resource implications are unknown at present. If Members were minded to include the requirement in the new tender specification, the tenderers could be requested to highlight their estimated costs as part of the tendering exercise. Members would then be in a position to determine whether or not to agree the upgrading.

5 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS** a course of action in respect of the above report.

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APPENDIX A

MILL HALL LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

- 1 Lighting Tower
- 8 Stage Lighting Squares
- 10 Stage Lighting coloured with dials
- 2 Stage Lighting square boxes with filter lights
- 2 Stage Lighting Supervisors' rods
- 2 Stage Lighting coloured filter plates
- 4 Stage Lighting miscellaneous items
- 5 Spotlights