

Committee	FINANCE COMMITTEE
Date	12 October 2020
Agenda Item	7e

To approve urgent repairs to the back wall of the Empire Theatre

1. In carrying out their works to remove the old screen, and replace it with a new one, the Empire Theatre Trust discovered a large crack in the top of the external wall above a wooden beam installed around 60 years ago.

This has been explored, and reports from surveyor and engineer in appendices explain what needs to be done. This may not be as serious or expensive a matter as was first thought. Buildings Regulation approval is not needed for this work.

Quotes have been received to carry out this work as follows:

Quote A: £3000 + VAT

Quote B : £1398 + VAT (can start on 19/10/20)

Quote C: £654 incl VAT (Cannot start work for 6 weeks)

2. In removing the screen, the Empire trustees also revealed a second problem. This is inside under the roof. The repair of the roof itself will fall to the Council eventually and is likely to cost in the region of £20,000. The problem revealed now is below the slates, and below the roof struts. Under these layers, there is a layer of insulation and some internal boarding some of which has come away. This could be seen as an internal repair which would fall to the Empire.

Quotes have been received as follows:

Quote A : £8000 + VAT

Quote B : £2675 + VAT (can start on 19/10/20)

Quote C: £1674 incl VAT (Cannot start work for 6 weeks)

The Empire is keen to open as soon as possible in order to start earning income. HTC has given the Empire a rent holiday for the past 6 months, and is also keen that the theatre should re-open and start paying rent again.

Recommendation:

1. that HTC approves Quote B for repair of the crack

2. that HTC decides who is responsible for the internal repair, but recommends that Quoter B is selected to do the job.

Sarah Greator

Sarah Greator Town Clerk