

Committee	Full Council
Date	13 March 2023
Agenda Item	7c

Replacement of the Empire Roof

Replacement of the roof at the Empire Theatre has been under consideration for some time. An application for funding was made to the National Lottery, but after many months of waiting, the Council was told in mid-February that the lottery will not fund the roof.

However, funds have been set aside in earmarked reserves to pay for this. It may be necessary to add some funds from this year's surplus, as costs have gone up. Three updated quotes have been received.

It would be best to do the work in the spring, when the weather is good. All the materials can be kept behind the theatre, and access will also be from there, so there should be little disruption to the functioning of the theatre. It will be necessary to inform the residents who park their vehicles at the back of their properties, which are adjacent to the lane which runs beside the theatre.

Earmarked reserves

With an understanding of the fact that the lottery funds might not be forthcoming, HTC has been putting funds away in earmarked reserves to cover the repair. Costs have of course risen significantly since the lottery application was made.

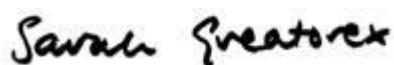
By 31/3/23 there will be £46,197 already allocated to earmarked reserves for this project. It is likely that the surplus for the current financial year will be greater than expected at the time of the budget, and it would be prudent to use some of the unpredicted surplus to make up the difference, in order to pay the bill. The VAT is recoverable.

Quote 1 £59,083.33 + 11,816.67 VAT = £70,900

Quote 2 £63,870 + £12,774 VAT = £76,644

Quote 3 £45,206 + 9,041.20 VAT = £54,247.20

Recommendation : that the council approves quote 3 and asks the contractor to start work as soon as possible.



Sarah Greateorex Town Clerk