

	Full Council
Date	10 November 2025
Agenda Item	10

To consider an update on the proposed Community Arts Centre

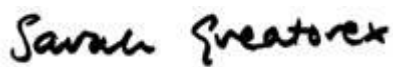
October has been a busy month for the development of this project. The following is a list of actions to date

1. First meeting of the Community Arts Centre (CAC) CIO Trustees (Designate)
2. Business case V7 drafted with updates suggested at the Trustees(Designate) of the CAC CIO - attached
3. CAC CIO registration – delays due to the Charity Commission failing to approve a generic deed document so decision to apply will be put to the Trustees(Designate) at November meeting using the proposed document seen by HTC in July 2025
4. Meeting with H4C about their proposed community centre. HTC updated H4C progress and commitment to continue with the CAC along with details of the Trustees(Designate). H4C advised that, given the confirmation that HTC will proceed with the CAC it will need to consult with the donor of the land as to what would be an acceptable use of the land. HTC restated its position that some form of public realm with associated parking expansion which would assist in the regeneration of the area. HTC advised that a significant majority of respondents to the survey supported regeneration. A suggestion was aired that a museum for the Town could be a possible building provision.
5. Meeting with CAC Trustees(Designate) and Empire Theatre(ET) to update HTC position to learn more about the ET offer and agree working arrangements to ensure that the project meets the needs of the ET. Agreed to meet quarterly.
6. BDC pre-application advice requested and paid for
7. JB and SG visit to South Mill Arts Centre which has many parallels to the CAC proposals and the views were supportive of the outlines of our proposals and advice received on ways forward. The CEO will also visit our site in due course.
8. Visits to Haverhill Arts Centre, Sudbury Community Arts Centre and the Mercury theatre awaited.

9. Contact made with Colchester Institute about potential outreach activities at the site (some already in place with ET)

Recommendation:

1. That HTC confirms its position that it supports the development of the Community Arts Centre at the Empire Theatre site to provide community activities in conjunction with increased arts provision.
2. That HTC acknowledges the work of H4C to date to deliver a community centre
3. That HTC commits to continued dialogue with H4C to find ways to utilise the donated land in Butler Road for community use and to assist with the regeneration of this area of the Town as supported by the almost unanimous majority of respondents to the CAC survey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sarah Greator". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Sarah" and the last name "Greator" clearly distinguishable.

Sarah Greator Town Clerk