

Declaration of interest – Vacation of Chair.

9 In terms of Standing Order No 27, Councillor Aitken declared an interest in the remaining item of business, vacated the Chair which was taken by Councillor Bell, and left the room during its consideration.

Citizens' Theatre Redevelopment Project (Ward 8) – Additional funding approved, in principle.

10 With reference to the minutes of 7th March 2019 (Print 7, page 581) approving an additional £1m of grant funding to the Citizens' Theatre (Ward 8) towards its redevelopment project, in addition to the £5m already accounted for in the Council's capital planning, there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability regarding a proposed increase in the Council's funding contribution to support the successful delivery of the redevelopment of the Citizens' Theatre, advising that

- (1) the Citizens' Theatre was a category B listed building owned by the Council and leased to the Citizens' Theatre Ltd and the redevelopment and restoration of the building would secure it as an essential theatrical, creative and cultural hub for the city and local communities;
- (2) the Citizens' Theatre Ltd had secured funding in excess of £25m of external funding from multiple sources, however the COVID pandemic had had a significant negative impact on the project in terms of delay and cost and as a result the project was once again facing significant funding challenges;
- (3) all of the funding resources had been contacted to seek additional funding to close the funding gap for the project and the National Lottery Heritage Fund had committed to increasing its funding contribution by £2.5m, however it had confirmed that it would not be in a position to provide any additional increase; and
- (4) it was proposed that the Council increased its overall funding towards the project by £2m, subject to the condition that the other funders were also contributing additional capital and this additional grant funding would be met from the Common Good Fund.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the progress on the Citizens' Theatre Redevelopment Project and the level of external funding secured by the Citizens Theatre; and
- (b) approved, in principle an additional £2m of grant funding, in addition to the £6m already accounted for in the Council's capital planning, subject to other funders also contributing additional capital.