



Report to: Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture & the Arts

Decision Date: 14 May 2026

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rowan Cozens, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and & Arts
Councillor Paul Peacock - Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Performance & Finance

Director Lead: Matt Finch, Director – Communities & Environment

Lead Officer: Carys Coulton-Jones, Business Manager - Heritage & Culture

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report/Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Palace Theatre Chandeliers LED Upgrade
Purpose of Report	To seek approval for a budget to be created in 2026/27 to upgrade the theatre's original chandeliers to LED, improving efficiency and supporting improved environmental sustainability.
Recommendations	That a capital budget be set up in 2026/27 for £165,000, financed from the Capital Reserve.
Alternative Options Considered	A 'do nothing' approach could be considered, however the chandeliers will remain in need of upgrade whilst becoming more costly to operate.
Reason for Recommendation	NSDC has committed to reduce the impact of climate change (Community Plan Ambition 6), and the Heritage & Culture Business Unit is a National Portfolio Organisation for the Arts Council England and is required to deliver against their Environmental Responsibility investment principle.
Decision Taken	As per the recommendation above.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Palace Theatre, Newark, built in 1920, has four chandeliers within the theatre auditorium. These chandeliers are part of the theatre's 'house lights', used when the audience is entering and leaving the auditorium, and are separate to the theatre's stage lighting rig.

- 1.2 The chandeliers are aging and may be original features. However, it is becoming challenging and increasingly costly to source traditional bulbs which are also less efficient in electricity consumption.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 Working with a specialist theatre lighting company, a scheme has been designed to upgrade the chandeliers including LED lights, drivers and controls, improving the current lux levels and retaining the chandelier infrastructure. New winches will be installed in the theatre roof space.

It has been calculated that the estimated annual reduction in cost (purchase of bulbs and electricity) for the operation of the four chandeliers will be 89%.

The scheme has been costed at an estimated £165,000 including inflation and contingency. Funding has been identified in previous financial years and held in reserves, to be moved into the capital programme at the appropriate time.

The Corporate Property team will ensure all planning requirements and listed building consents are adhered to as part of this work as the theatre is Grade II listed.

- 2.2 This proposal is part of a suite of environmental sustainability improvements that the Palace Theatre has committed to undertaking. LED upgrades to the theatre's stage lighting rig have already been approved and included within the 2026/27 capital programme. The theatre has switched to re-usable plastic glasses for drinks that are taken into the auditorium, committed to using recycleable materials for marketing print that is created in-house, such as the What's On brochure, and removed plastic flashing toys from its pantomime merchandise options.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, Officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	yes	Equality & Diversity	
Human Resources		Human Rights	
Legal	yes	Data Protection	
Digital & Cyber Security		Safeguarding	
Sustainability		Crime & Disorder	
LGR		Tenant Consultation	

3.1 Legal Implications - LEG2627/3162

Legal Services will need to be instructed in relation to any contractual arrangements for the scheme.

The consents in paragraph 2.1 will need to be obtained prior to any works being undertaken.

3.2 Financial Implications (FIN26-27-5227)

A Capital budget of £165,000 to carry out the replacement of the chandeliers. There is currently £110,000 committed within the Capital Provision Reserve to finance the Chandelliers project, carried forward from 2024/25.

It is proposed that this provision is increased by £55,000 from favourable variances identified in 2025/26, to fund the updated project costs, together with a further £15,000 to support associated feasibility work. This will ensure that the required budgets are available in 2026/27.

As per paragraph 2.1, there is likely to be a small saving on revenue expenditure once the more energy efficient chandeliers are installed.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None