

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillor J Kent

Council notes the Thameside Complex was, formally, opened on 22nd of January 1972 with the first performance in the theatre taking place in October 1971. Council agrees: (1) that a celebratory event should be held, at the Thameside, in January 2022 to mark the Golden Anniversary of the complex and (2) to call on Cabinet to identify the resources necessary to refurbish the theatre and ensure the future of the complex.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The motion relates to a matter affecting the authority and over which the Council has relevant functions.

The Council has a duty to consider best value in its use of resources and this would include the consideration of refurbishment for the Thameside complex.

It should be noted the management and decision making relating to the services and building are matters for the Cabinet, whilst Council can make comment and request action, they cannot impose a direct instruction that the services or building remain.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

The Council is aware of the significant financial challenges over the coming years and the legal requirement to set a balanced budget. This requires Members to consider all areas of the council's expenditure – both immediate and in the medium term.

The Thameside building itself requires significant capital investment, as does the theatre. In addition, the running expenses of the building alone are in excess of £0.5m.

Further reports on the Thameside and the services currently provided within the Thameside will be considered by Members later in this calendar year.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes