

21. PUBLIC HALL SOUND SYSTEM – PHASE 2 (ATTACHED.i.) – To approve the purchase of essential equipment for the second phase of the Public Hall’s audio upgrade to bring the system up to full functionality at a cost of £8,744 + VAT. The costs to be met from the Public Hall Equipment and IT budget (£3,500) and the Public Hall Refurbishment budget (£5,244). To be sourced from the supplier who provided the first phase equipment.

Background – Following, research and consideration of the issue by the 17th September 2024 Facilities Committee, the 24th September 2024 Town Council decided M180/24 to approve the “replacement of damaged and missing equipment to bring the Public Hall’s audio system back to full functionality for meetings and larger events at an estimated cost of £5,500 + VAT. The costs to be met from the Public Hall Equipment and IT budget (£2,000) and Large Projects Reserve (£3,500).” This being the first phase in the equipment upgrade. This reports cover the second phase.

Facilities Manager Report - The first phase of the audio upgrade was approved at the Town Council’s Full Council meeting held on 24 September 2024 at a cost of £5,500.00 + VAT. The first phase consisted of replacing the analogue sound desk with a user-friendly digital version (the old desk was sold to Liskeard school and Community College), replacing damaged/missing cables, and adding new microphones. We now need to deliver the second phase of the upgrade by replacing the rest of the old and missing equipment.

The original audio system was installed in 2002 at a cost of around £26,000, so coming up to 23 years old (the average life expectancy of this sort of equipment is around 10 to 15 years depending on usage). There would have been four speakers originally and these would have been mounted on the proscenium arch. One of the four speakers is missing altogether and those remaining are placed on the floor next to the stage (brackets possibly removed when the stage lift was put in). The speakers are reaching the end of their useful life, are becoming difficult to maintain and source replacement parts for. The proposed stage monitors are an addition to the current set-up, but this would mean we no longer have to hire them for larger events, performances, conferences, etc. You will also see that we have allowed for two ‘fly bars’ to suspend the speakers on the proscenium arch again.

This second phase of the audio upgrade will bring the Public Hall back up to scratch, enabling us to support our current hirers and a wider range of events (e.g. theatre, bans, conferences, weddings, and parties). The Town Council can also take advantage of in-house expertise for the installation i.e. at zero cost.

The total cost for replacement speakers, subwoofers, monitors, and fly bars is £8,744.00 + VAT(attached i) (£7,444.00 + VAT without the stage monitors).

If we manage to sell the cinema chairs (estimated value £1,000 to £2,000) then I am hoping, we can put this towards the cost of the audio equipment.

I think we will be too late to have the equipment installed by Mayor Choosing on the 2 June, but we have several large events coming up that require the PA including Annie, LJT Dance

production, presentation evenings, wedding reception and a big music gig, so it would be good to get this sorted.

We have had an email from JHAV to say that the price on the equipment we are looking to purchase will increase by 3% from 1st June – this would add around £300 to the cost including VAT.

RECOMMEDATION: THAT APPROVAL BE GIVEN TO PURCHASE ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF THE PUBLIC HALL AUDIO UPGRADE TO BRING THE SYSTEM UP TO FULL FUNCTIONALITY AT A COST OF £8,744 + VAT. THE COST TO BE MET FROM THE PUBLIC HALL EQUIPMENT AND IT BUDGET (£3,500) AND THE PUBLIC HALL REFURBISHMENT BUDGET (£5,244). TO BE SOURCED FROM THE SUPPLIER WHO PROVIDED FOR THE PHASE ONE OF THE AUDIO UPGRADE TO ENSURE 100% COMPATIBILITY”