

	Meeting (No)	Market & Town Hall Committee (4)	
	Date	10 February 2026	
	Document		
		Stage Project	MTH4/54c

The stage area in the Town Hall is tired, dated and not really fit for purpose. We made a slight improvement in 2025 by replacing the worn stage back curtains, however more improvements are desperately needed to make the stage more suitable for both amateur and professional theatre groups, plus musicians etc..

Having an updated and enhanced stage area will benefit the council, developing our profile and enabling us to provide a professional stage for performances by local groups. Advertising the improved area may encourage more groups to perform in the town hall, thus increasing revenue through hire charges. The community will also benefit as they will have a better audience experience and may be able to attend performances from a variety of theatre or dance groups and musicians attracted by the improved space. Our regular hirers have been consulted during this process and their feedback has been invaluable. I'm assured that they will benefit from the improvements as will other performing groups, acts for the annual music festival and Cheshire Rural Touring Theatre. The overall benefit of a facelift to the stage will be significant, not just to performers but by showcasing an improved hall image for all users. The stage project would also meet many of the aims within the delivery plan specifically in goal 4 'Develop Arts & Culture' and goal 6 'Deliver excellent services according to both needs and consumer choice'.

The committee may therefore wish to make a request to Full Council, via the Finance and Administration Committee, for the sum of £5000 from the special project fund to enable these improvements to go ahead early in the 2026/27 financial year. The money would be used primarily for the replacement and enhancement of the stage curtains, with a small contingency for any additional work that may arise during fitting. However, if any funds were left over after the curtains were fitted, they could be utilised towards the proposed stage lighting improvements.

The remaining stage lighting work agreed for the 2026/27 would be funded from the 4417 Responsive Maintenance budget. Further work to continue to develop the stage and hall may be proposed in future financial years.

Nicky McMahon

Market & Town Hall Manager