



Committee Report

PURPOSE: Final Decision Report

KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION: Key decision over £500k

COMMITTEE: Transport and Connectivity Committee

DATE: 11 July 2024

Title: Upgrade of electrical power supplies on the Amphitheatre Event space

Ward(s): Hotwells and Harbourside and Central Wards

Officer presenting the report: Shaun Taylor

Job title: Head of Highways and Traffic

Committee Chair: Cllr Ed Plowden

Executive Director lead: John Smith: Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration

Proposal origin: BCC Staff

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval to accept and spend capital funding to install a power supply and electrical equipment that will enable all outdoor events to operate on the Amphitheatre site safely and to reduce the reliance on the need to use air polluting generators.

Evidence Base:

1. The Amphitheatre is an established outdoor event site on the Harbourside. The area is designed for this purpose as part of the Lloyd Bank HQ development in 1991.
2. The current electrical infrastructure in use on the Amphitheatre has been subject to periodic repair and maintenance to ensure its safety and reliability and the HSE have recommended the electrical supply is upgraded as a matter of urgency to comply with the Electricity at Works Act. At a recent test and inspection of the electrical installation, the installation failed and subsequently required remedial works, which have been implemented, but only as a temporary solution. The Electricity at Works Act is a legal statutory requirement when installing, maintaining, and upgrading electrical infrastructure. Failure to comply with this statutory requirement can lead to improvement notices, prohibition notices and prosecution. If this electricity supply is not upgraded, it will undoubtedly have to be isolated, locked off and removed.
3. For the reasons outlined above, the site requires significant investment in the event electrical

installations to ensure the electrical supply remains fit for purpose for years to come significantly reducing reliance on generators and importantly compliance with the statutory regulations this electrical installation is subject to.

4. As an indication of the spaces purpose, use, social, economic, and environmental impact: Events scheduled to take place on the Amphitheatre this year:
 - i. Host 12 events, including our commissioned events (Harbour Festival and Bristol Run)
 - ii. Events take place across 30 live event days
 - iii. Combined daily licensed capacity for these events is over 86,000 people
 - iv. These events use an estimated 83,902 kwhs of electricity per year
 - v. Equivalent generator power uses an estimated 25,424 litres of diesel, creating 63,136kgs of CO₂
 - vi. Annual economic impact from events in the amphitheatre is estimated to be around £2.75m
 - vii. BCC generates around £60,000 per year in income from amphitheatre site fees.
5. Currently the power supply and electrical installations on the site do not offer the required capacity to run or facilitate larger music, food, cultural events and festivals without the provision of diesel generators to increase the level of power on-site to that required to deliver these events.
6. Diesel generators are polluting, generating particulate and nitrogen dioxide pollution that is harmful to health. They also generate CO₂ emissions which are damaging to the environment and in the long term, to public health.
7. Many people are encouraged to spend time at events in locations where air pollution should be relatively good as they are away from roads. However, the diesel generators can impact significantly on-air pollution levels.
8. Bristol City Council will be able to secure renewably generated electricity to make the electricity supply zero carbon.
9. A charge will be levied on the power supplied, which will be lower than the cost of diesel generated power, but high enough to raise an income to maintain the infrastructure.
10. Providing event organisers with a site that enables them to meet sustainability targets and audience expectations will make the space a more attractive venue for them to operate in. Giving the site an advantage as it competes with other locations to host high quality events.

Options to consider:

Option 1. Invest. Upgrade the current power supply to a sufficient capacity, along with improvements to the electrical installations that allows for all events to operate on the Amphitheatre site without the need of generators to power their production.

Option 2. Do Nothing. Power supply capacity and insulation remain as is. Smaller events will continue to use current power supplies and electrical installation for aspects of their events: Food stalls, bars, site lighting and animation, small sound systems. When a higher level of power is required for staging, sound and visual production, then event organisers will be required to hire diesel running generators to meet their level of

power requirements.

Officer Recommendations:

That the Committee for Transport and Connectivity

1. Approves the spend of the allocated capital funding of £800k to upgrade electrical power supplies and improve electrical installations on the Amphitheatre Event site as outlined in this report.
2. Authorises the Executive Director for Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Chair of the Transport and Connectivity Committee to procure and award the contract to deliver the proposals, in-line with the procurement routes and maximum budget envelopes outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

The project aligns with the Environmental Sustainability Theme supporting work to achieve ENV Carbon Neutrality and supporting initiatives such as the Clean Air Zone by reducing a high-profile source of air pollution.

Corporate Strategy ENV1

Drive delivery of the One City Climate Strategy aim for the city to be carbon neutral for all emissions by 2030. Work to secure major external investment, including £1bn through the City Leap programme. Bring everyone with us in our just transition to a low-carbon future.

City Benefits:

The project will reduce air pollution, improving health, especially of those who are most susceptible to air pollution, reduce carbon emissions and assist the city in meeting its 2030 net zero goal.

Consultation Details:

The project has been developed in collaboration with colleagues across Public Health, Energy, Events, Harbour Estate and Highways Electrical Asset Teams.

Background Documents:

[One City Climate Strategy](#)

Revenue Cost	£0	Source of Revenue Funding	N/A
Capital Cost	£800k	Source of Capital Funding	Prudential borrowing.
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> If yes - existing or new saving? <small>Choose an item.</small> OR Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	

Professional comments section:

- 1. Finance Advice:** This report requests approval to spend £800k to improve the electricity supply available in the Amphitheatre and remove the need for event organisers to use diesel generators. The 2024-25 Budget included £800k for this purpose in 2024-25 in the list of new and emerging capital priority investments. The cost estimate is based on the proposed schedule of work but a more detailed specification will be required for a more robust estimate. There is also a risk that materials, steel and copper, will cost more than has been allowed but this may be balanced by worst-case assumptions being made on the required size of the substation and transformers. We will need to carefully monitor progress of the project, in particular any delays as a result of securing planning permission, to ensure the forecast is accurate.

Finance Business Partner: Ben Hegarty, Finance Business Partner Growth and Regeneration, 20 June 2024.

- 2. Legal Advice:** The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

As detailed design has not yet been commissioned, it is not clear what the works will entail but the summary suggests that planning permission will be required for at least some of the works e.g. substation(s). Other works may be subject to permitted development rights but would need clarification at detailed design stage. Listed Building Consent may also be needed if there are proposed works to any listed buildings.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 30 April 2024 and Joanne Mansfield, Team Leader, 17 June 2024

- 3. Implications on IT:** No impact

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson 7 May 2024

- 4. HR Advice:** There are no HR implications evident

HR Partner Celia Williams, G&R HR Business Partner 29 April 2024

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Amphitheatre Technical Document	YES
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	YES
Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment	YES
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix	NO
Appendix H – Business case / financial analysis	NO