

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At a meeting of the Council held
on Wednesday 18 December 2024 at 15:00 in Keynes Seminar Room 1 and online

Present:	Provost (via Zoom)	In Attendance:	Senior Tutor
	Professor Candea (via Zoom)		First Bursar
	Dr Russell		Domus Bursar
	Ms Headen		
	Professor Dunn		Mr Warner
	Dr Sarkovic		Mr Ajanaku
	Dr Good		
			Registrar

604. **Apologies for Absence**

The Vice Provost, Dr Taylor, Professor Giannitsarou and Dr Adhikari apologised for their absence. Professor Sharman was on leave.

605. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

OPEN BUSINESS ONLY

606. **Arts Theatre**

The First Bursar asked Council to review the Cambridge Arts Theatre's ('CAT') renovation project proposals and, if Council found them satisfactory, to authorise the College's common seal to be affixed to a licence to alter relating to the 'Phase 1' of the works. He had presented the proposals to Governing Body on 5 December, and Governing Body had delegated authority to Council to review detailed arrangements and approve use of the College seal.

The First Bursar thanked the Domus Bursar and Head of Capital Projects for their work in support of CAT's project. He drew Council's attention to the distinction between Phase 1 of the works, which will focus on the internal refurbishment of the Theatre, and works in Phase 2 that propose construction of a second, 'Studio' theatre of the roof of the present building. In terms of impacts on the College, Phase 1 was considerably more straightforward and it was only on this phase that Council's permission was sought. CAT and the College were continuing to discuss Phase 2 and how it would be managed, on which Council's approval would be sought in Lent term. Council discussed the impact of the project. Council considered loss of revenue (both from retail tenants on Peas Hill and student accommodation) and how this might affect the College's financial position. Council noted the impact of the work on students, and the extent to which the project could have a detrimental long-term effect on the quality of accommodation in Spalding Hostel. These considerations will be reviewed as part of any approval of Phase 2.

The First Bursar and Domus Bursar reassured Council that they had engaged with students, in terms of their accommodation options, and that the College's agents and CAT had engaged with retail tenants, in terms of impact (principally from Phase 2), from an early stage in negotiations, and that they would continue to apply this proactive approach.

Council noted the interest of Corpus Christi College (as a result of party wall issues) and supported ongoing communication between relevant officers.

Council discussed uncertainties in the works program in Phase 2, whether unexpected delays might occur, and how CAT and the College might manage these matters. Again, these would be reviewed in proposals for Phase 2 brought to Council in Lent.

Council also asked the First and Domus Bursars how the College would ensure the quality of the building work. The Domus Bursar reassured Council that the College's surveyors would remain involved throughout the project, but undertook to explore the detail of this further.

Council discussed the relationship between CAT and the College, and how CAT's plans might, once complete, provide improved artistic opportunities for King's students. Council also considered the role CAT and the College might play in the University and city theatre communities. The First Bursar noted that the Theatre presently has an interim leadership team in place, whose time is very largely occupied with this major capital works project. The College's stance has been to support CAT in delivering this project in support of the generous benefaction that sits behind it. The First Bursar explained that there will be a range of opportunities to discuss closer collaboration when the Theatre's team have capacity, likely after the project's completion. Such conversations had started eighteen months ago with enthusiasm from both sides.

Council agreed:

- a) to authorise, pursuant to the authority granted by Governing Body on 5 December 2024, the College's common seal to be affixed to a licence to alter relating to Phase 1 alterations to the Cambridge Arts Theatre; and
- b) To delegate to the First Bursar approval of any outstanding arrangements in relation to Phase 1, including confirmation of the Theatre's insurance provision.

607. **Bodley's Court Beech Tree Removal**

Council noted an update on arrangements for the removal of the Beech tree in Bodley's Court prior to the start of Lent term 2025.

Any Other Business

608. None.

There being no further business Council ended at 15:58.