



# Media Release

*Lynne Mee*

*Direct line 01423 556022*

**Communications and Media Manager Direct fax 01423 561154 not 24 hrs**

**24 hour fax “ 556010**

**Mobile 07884 226409**

**Email [lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk)**

**[www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)**

pr 1106.Royal Hall decision date.doc

DATE: 20 January 2005

## **HLF PUT BACK DECISION DATE ON ROYAL HALL**

THE senior grants officer from the Heritage Lottery has written to the council this week to advise that the Trustees are not in a position to consider the revised submission for a lottery award for the Royal Hall project as expected on 22 February.

The letter states that the Trustees have set aside 22 February to carry out a review of their overall strategic plan. They will now consider the Royal Hall submission, along with other national projects, at their meeting on 22 March.

This is still within the four-month timescale within which the HLF has to consider this Stage 2 application.

Council Leader, Councillor Mike Gardner, said: “This delay is slightly frustrating but it is unlikely to have any impact on our programme, it will merely delay it a month and we do not think it will have any material effect on the overall project. We will just have to keep our fingers crossed for a further four weeks.”

The Stage 2 submission includes the following key components of the strategy devised for the delivery of a partial restoration of the Royal Hall with community use, which has been developed by the Design Team and the council’s Study Management Group, and based around four criteria:

- carrying out essential structural repairs and waterproofing;
- maximising public access and usage;
- providing a basis for further restoration work as and when funds become available;
- containing risk and the possibility of costs over-running.

Although the scheme is still subject to further detailed design and costings analysis and is by no means firm, works are likely to include repairs to the structure across all of the building including the front entrance and the rear ambulatory area; weatherproofing; a basic level of heating and ventilation; works to the rear of the stage to allow it to be used again for performances; improved access for those with disabilities; improved toilets and first aid accommodation; new seats in the Grand Hall and Grand Circle; decorative repairs only throughout front-of-house areas.

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