

**Policy & Resources Committee**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>31 October 2017</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Upper Chamber Acoustics</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Janine Howells, Asset Manager</b>

**Purpose of this Report**

1. To provide a written update on the progress towards improvement of the Upper Chamber acoustics.

**Update**

2. Further clarification was sought on a number of recommendations and comments contained within the commissioned report and this was subsequently provided by the consultant at no additional charge.
3. One recommendation is that areas of acoustic absorber can either be provided by the use of wall mounted panels (Absorption Class A), hanging curtains (Absorption Class B) or carpets (usually unrated). The lower the class, the greater the area required. The requirement can be met either by installing one or a combination of two or more i.e. wall panels and curtains, curtains and carpet etc. Absorber material, absorber class and the effective area calculation matrix have been provided to assist with these considerations. Carpets and curtains would also have a significant additional maintenance impact.
4. A further option of hanging absorbent panels fitted to the vaulted ceiling area has also been suggested. A complete solution could be provided by 87m<sup>2</sup> of Class A absorption panels. This would have little physical impact on the various hirings of the room. Given that is also a low maintenance option, this has been explored further by Officers.
5. Officers have obtained quotations from specialist suppliers of suspended acoustic panels and quotations for supply only range from £4,666 - £5,949 + VAT. Further calculations are required from a specialist fitter on exact panels that could be fitted, and the cost of that fitting. A specialist fitter is being sought.
6. For an additional cost of £720 (plus hemming cost x 12), Officers have established that heavy blue baize could be used to cover the tables, which could also provide up to 25% of the solution, if 12 tables are covered.

**Action Required**

To note the report.