

Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 29 July 2026

Report by: Councillor Sarah Hopewell, Executive Member for Wellbeing

Report title: BEAM Business Plan

Ward(s) affected: Hertford Castle

Summary

- This paper sets out the detailed business plan for BEAM for 2026/27 and beyond

RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION: That Audit and Governance Committee Members:

(A) Review BEAM's business plan and make any recommendations to the Executive Member for Wellbeing

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 That Audit and Governance Members review BEAM's business plan

2.0 Background

2.1 At their meeting of 30 June, Audit Governance Committee Members requested a full review of the new business plan which replaces that which was adopted by Council in January 2024. This can be found in the appendices.

2.2 The new business plan is based on operational realities following BEAM being fully open for over a year. The business plan forecasts will be built into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and ultimately adopted at Council later in 2026/27.

3.0 Reason

3.1 Audit and Governance Committee Members have requested site of the full business plan, following a report on the headline budget figures at their meeting of 30th June.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 N/A – no recommendations made other than for Audit and Governance Members to make recommendations to the BEAM Board or Executive Member for Wellbeing

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 The paper covers key areas of risk facing BEAM (see sections 2.0 and 3.0) and mitigating actions in place.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 None

Community Safety

None

Data Protection

None

Equalities

BEAM is a fully accessible building. In addition, the BEAM Board have agreed an overall programming framework which sets out the principles behind programming. Ordinarily the venue will not programme events that are designed primarily to promote political parties, ideologies, or candidates, religious beliefs, contain extremist content or pose a risk to public safety, community cohesion, or are inconsistent with the Equality Act 2010 or any UK laws prohibiting discrimination or hate speech.

Environmental Sustainability

Beam recently won the sustainability prize at the UK Theatre Awards and a sustainability award at the RIBA East Architectural Awards. Alongside this we are still intending to install PV panels on the roof of the building (funded via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund)

Financial

As detailed in the appendices

Health and Safety

None

Human Resources

None

Human Rights

None

Legal

None

Specific Wards

Yes – Hertford Castle

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

Appendix A – Assumptions

Appendix B – Individual budget lines

Appendix C – Scenario planning

Contact Member

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