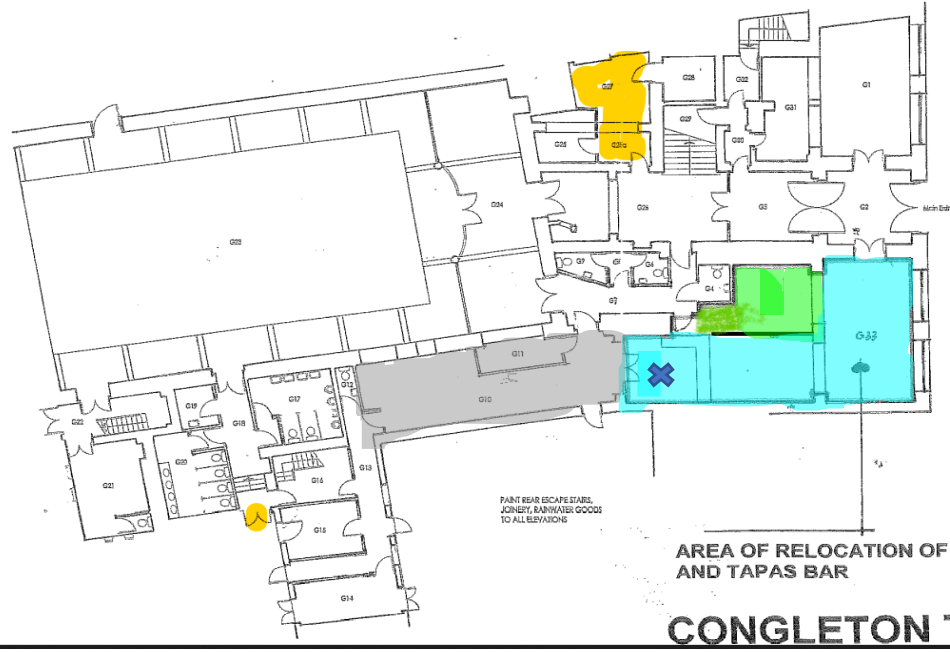


## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Town Hall, Assets and Services</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 7pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>10 Refurbishment of the Town Hall Cotton Club Area</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>The area at the entrance of the Town Hall, The Cotton Club, formed part of the rental agreement with our previous commercial partner. The commercial partner provided catering and bar services exclusively for events within the Town Hall and also rented the Cotton Club area as part of their lease agreement. The lease agreement included the Cotton Club area, the storeroom adjacent to the Cotton Club area, the commercial kitchen, bar and beer cellar. The area was originally opened as a prohibition style evening bar and private dining club, The Cotton Club, and later as a daytime café.</p> <p>The lease agreement with our former commercial partner has expired, and for this reason, it has been agreed that all items belonging to the former commercial partner, located in the Cotton Club area, storeroom and commercial kitchen, will be removed from the Town Hall premises no later than 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021.</p>		
<b>Update</b>	<p>The area at the entrance to the Town Hall, formerly known as The Cotton Club, is in need of selective decoration, however, it is an excellent commercial space. The drawback of the existing room layout is the location of the commercial kitchen and how it could be shared by two, separate parties. If an event taking place in the Town Hall requires use of the commercial kitchen, this limits access to the kitchen for users of the commercial space at the entrance of the Town Hall. The plans below highlight the layout issue.</p>		



Blue area – Cotton Club

Green Area – Storeroom (Chair Store)

Grey Area – Commercial Kitchen

✕ - New small kitchen and counter

An option would be to remove the stud walls between the Cotton Club and storeroom to open out the area into one space as it was pre 2010. Removal of the stud walls would create a larger, more usable space and maximise the potential of the area rather than being partially used for storage. To alleviate the issue of shared kitchen space; an additional, smaller kitchen and counter could be installed to the rear of the area to allow for use as a commercial catering enterprise, without impacting on catering operations taking place in the Town Hall commercial kitchen. The adjoining storeroom is currently used to store 150 chairs. Due to the limited storage space within the Town Hall, additional storage would need to be created to accommodate the chairs. An option would be to install a theatre style backdrop curtain beneath the Minstrels’ Gallery in the Grand Hall. The curtain would be located approximately 3ft from the wall and would create a storage area for the chairs and also form a theatrical backdrop for the stage. Officers are currently investigating match funding grant opportunities which could be used to deliver these proposals.

**Decision Request**

To receive the report on proposals for refurbishment of the Cotton Club area and Grand Hall theatre style backdrop curtain, and to agree if this proposal is a viable option worth progressing.