

QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

Council Meeting: **Wednesday, 23 July 2025**

Question from: **Sandra Shearn**

Question to: **Councillor Danielle Durrans, Lead Member for
Public Services and Communities**

QUESTION

I spent a lot of time at Square Chapel, at the Film Society, the Philharmonic Club and the Arts Society. I enjoyed general film showings, meeting friends for coffee or lunches, even singing there in a small choir to a packed house. I was among the many volunteers, offering free accommodation to visiting artists, helping the venue to keep costs down. I've long lamented the loss of the wonderful opportunities the centre offered to performers and visitors. What opportunities will the general public have to examine the various proposals for Square Chapel and to make our views known?

RESPONSE

Square Chapel is not owned by Calderdale Council, although two small parcels of Council land are leased to Square Chapel Community Interest Company for use in conjunction with the building. Arts Council England holds a charge on the building and would have primary responsibility for taking decisions on future use or disposals with the owner and with any administrator, receiver or other insolvency practitioner that may be appointed.

Officers are aware of the current position in respect of the operator and have been in discussion with Arts Council England representatives on the future of the building. Whilst the Council would like to be involved and support decisions on the future of the Arts Centre, it does not have any direct responsibility for the process and how this will be managed.