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

Council Meeting: Wednesday, 23 July 2025

Question from: Pete Keal

Question to: Councillor Danielle Durrans, Lead Member for

Public Services and Communities

QUESTION

Prior to Arts Council England and Calderdale Council agreeing to Square Chapel CIC letting the centre as Piece Hall concert green rooms, there seems to have been an expectation that the CIC would vacate the building and hand over the keys to ACE. If Square Chapel CIC does not do so once this letting has ended, does ACE have the power to repossess the building? If so, would the Council urge ACE to exercise this power?

RESPONSE

Arts Council England does not have the power to repossess the building. They can only act to enforce the charge they have on the building which states that it must be used as an arts centre.

Like many residents and interested groups the Council is keen to see Square Chapel brought back into use as an arts centre for the borough and is in contact with the Arts Council to try and encourage a resolution that achieves this outcome