

OPEN CELL CEILING TO THE COPELAND CENTRE ATRIUM

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr N Williams
LEAD OFFICER: Sue Borwick
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Summary: This report advises Executive of a proposal to install a ceiling in the atrium to enhance the appearance and working conditions.

Recommendation: Executive is asked to approve the installation of the ceiling through allocation of £10,000 from the Public Building Fund revenue contingency 2005 6.
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: Improvement to staff working environment.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): None

Financial and human resource implications: Budgetary provision exists through the Public Building Fund contingency 2005 6, use of this £10,000 leaves a balance of £7,000 as at end of January 2006.

Project & Risk Management: Project management procedure guide followed.

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** None
- **Ward:** None

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report proposes the installation of an open cell ceiling in the Copeland Centre Atrium. This is currently an area which is very high and open up to the roof level. There are certain changes that the Council could make to make the area more compatible with the other office areas.
- 1.2 Such a ceiling comprises the normal grey metal grid with 24" x 24" tiles that comprise vertical slates at two and a half inches spacings both ways resting on the grid (see Appendix A). This ceiling will be fitted at a point approximately 3 metres above floor level, the effect will be to lower the visual aspect of the room and provide an appearance relatively similar to the other rooms in the building. As the room is naturally ventilated and lit the open cell construction will allow air and light to move directly upwards and downwards, but the

ceiling will visually isolate the walls above and reduce the transmission of airborne sound and glare. Some monitoring will be undertaken to record conditions.

- 1.3 The load bearing capacity of the roof has been checked and found to be adequate and prices have been obtained from two contractors for fitting the ceiling. The expected total cost (including out of hours working) is estimated at a maximum of £10,000. Permission is required from London & Regional Properties Ltd, this has been requested and we are awaiting the outcome of their consultation with the Mechanical and Ventilation Specialists. Payment would be to L & R through a variation to the PFI contract.
- 1.4 There are a small number of outstanding issues that remain to be concluded with L & R including elimination of noise created by heavy rain on the roof windows to the atrium, these are being pursued separately, and the installation of the ceiling will have no effect on these other matters.

2. CONCLUSIONS

- 2.1 Members are advised that Budgetary provision exists through the Public Building Fund contingency 2005 6, in the sum of £17,000 as at end of January 2006, and that part of this could now be made available for this purpose.
- 2.2 Executive is asked to approve the proposal to install this ceiling utilising an allocation of £10,000 from the Public Building Fund revenue contingency 2005 6.

Appendices: Appendix A Open cell ceiling technical data sheet.

List of Background Documents: Project file, correspondence, estimates

List of Consultees: Corporate team.